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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 283

TUESDAY DECEMBER 4, 2012

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Have you started your Christmas shopping yet?

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INSIDE

NATION



School for thousands of public school students is about to get quite a bit longer. **► PAGE 15**

WORLD



The amount of heat-trapping pollution the world spewed rose again last year by 3 percent. **► PAGE 17**

LIFE & STYLE



The "Twilight" finale and "Skyfall" continued to dominate the box office. **► PAGE 20**

Christmas tree lighting marks start of holiday season at Hyatt. **PAGE 2**
Babauta's performance evaluation underway. **PAGE 3**

AFTER GOVT DECLINES \$80M ICE-BREAKING FERRY DEAL

Lawmakers quiz Fitia on other deals

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER



» Want governor to also withdraw from \$190M PPA

Lawmakers are calling on the Fitia administration to disclose other multi-million dollar deals or communication with vendors, after they were taken by surprise by reports that the CNMI was having talks with owners of an unused \$80-million ice-breaking ferry in Alaska. The administration confirmed "several weeks" of communication with the vessel owners, but said it is not buying the ferry. **See LAWMAKERS on Page 4**

'SDLLC, Fitia may have been violating TRO on \$190.8M power deal'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Janet Maratita (IR-Saipan) said yesterday that Gov. Benigno R. Fitia and Saipan Developmental

LLC should be held in contempt and fined up to \$10,000 daily for allegedly violating a temporary restraining order prohibiting them from pursuing

and/or performing on the sole-source \$190.8-million diesel power purchase agreement. Maratita, at the same time, asked Sen. Juan

Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) yesterday to stop meeting with SDLLC officials so as not to compromise their legal position

See SDLLC on Page 4



Maratita

15K limit on CWs justifies transition extension and reflects job losses

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A 33-percent decrease in the limit on the number of foreign workers allowed in the CNMI—from 22,416 in fiscal year 2012 to 15,000 in FY 2013—is a reflection not only of severe job losses in the CNMI but also justifies repeated calls for an extension of the transitional

Commonwealth-only worker program beyond 2014, stakeholders said.

Richard Pierce, executive director of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said "although it has been a long time coming, it's good to see a number from DHS that's based upon demand."

"More importantly, the Chamber's membership awaits word on the ex-

See 15K LIMIT on Page 4



EARTH-FRIENDLY CHRISTMAS TREE

CLARISSA V. DAVID

A young girl takes a closer look at what's underneath one of the Christmas trees decorated as part of the 7th Annual Christmas Tree Decoration Contest at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan on Saturday evening. A total of 13 public and private elementary schools have taken part in the competition that aims to promote the importance of recycling among students by encouraging them to use empty soda cans, water bottles, used paper, and other recyclable materials in decorating 9-foot tall Christmas trees. The annual contest is part of the efforts of nonprofit group PDM Promoters Inc. in making Paseo de Marianas and the Garapan vicinity a safe and clean place for tourists and residents alike.



December
PREPAID SPECIALS

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Local



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.



Sora Ike Tabi Festa 2012

The Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) participated in the consumer travel show **Sora Ike Tabi Festa 2012** held in Sendai, Japan on Oct. 13-14, 2012.

The show was held at **Brandoom Ichiban-cho/Sun Mall Ichiban-cho**, the most popular shopping streets in Sendai. The event attracted 42,000 attendees. Twenty-three tourism-related organizations participated, including national tourist offices, local governments, airlines, and travel agencies. This was an increase in the number of visitors and booths compared to last year.

The travel show was organized by the **Sendai Airport Internationalization Promotion Committee** and the **Japan Association of Travel Agents (JATA)**, and sponsored by the Sendai Chamber of Commerce.

It appears that the town has fully recovered after the tremendous damage caused by the 2011 earthquake and tsunami. **United Airlines** now operates four times a week from Sendai to Guam. Potential customers to the Northern Mariana Islands via Guam were targeted at the MVA booth with the support of **R&C Tours**.



This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

Christmas tree lighting marks start of holiday season at Hyatt

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Hyatt Regency Saipan formally welcomed the holiday season on Dec. 1 with the traditional Christmas tree lighting ceremony followed by a benefit dinner for the Autism Society of the CNMI.

Hotel executives and staff clinked a toast with guests at the lobby where the towering Christmas symbol was officially set alight by general manager Nick Nishikawa and human resources director Josephine Mesta.

The ceremonial event was made more meaningful as four families of children whose wishes were granted in the past by Make-A-Wish Foundation, a valuable community partner of Hyatt Regency Saipan, graced the occasion.

Following the Christmas tree lighting ceremony was the benefit dinner at Giovanni's restaurant for the Autism Society of the CNMI.

Close to 90 individuals supported the fundraiser, which celebrated Hyatt Regency Saipan's 32nd anniversary in the hospitality industry on island.

"Hyatt Regency Saipan has been supported by the community for the past 32 years. We, too, support the community," Nishikawa told guests at the only Italian restaurant in the Northern Marianas.

Guests enjoyed cocktails and scrumptious appetizers prepared by the hotel's highly skilled culinary team led by executive chef Gabriele Colombo, while looking at a photo gallery showcasing Hyatt Regency

» Also holds benefit dinner for autism society



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Guests gather at the lobby of Hyatt Regency Saipan which officially kicked off its holiday festivities during the annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony on Saturday night. The event, which included a benefit dinner for the Autism Society of the CNMI, marked the hotel's 32nd anniversary on island.

Saipan's involvement for over three decades.

"Hyatt is still around and is still part of the community," said Mesta. "It is our responsibility to thank the community for contributing to our success and as a result, we would like to give back to the island."

Saturday night's charity dinner also featured a raffle draw and silent auction, both aimed at raising more money for the Hyatt's chosen beneficiary. At the event, a brief presentation was made by two of the charter members of the Autism Society of the CNMI, John Guerrero and Vince Merfalen, who are both parents of children diagnosed with autism.

Guerrero defined autism as a

developmental disorder that affects the brain's normal development of social and communication skills. He said that based on recent statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 1 in 88 children born today would be diagnosed somewhere in the autism spectrum.

"Autism remains a challenging condition for the children and their families but the outlook today is much better than it was five to ten years ago in the CNMI. With the right therapy, many of the symptoms of autism like communication issues can be resolved," added Guerrero.

For his part, Merfalen noted that the best way to understand autism is to talk about the story of their child or loved one who is diagnosed as autistic.

"If you know anybody who's

autistic, try not to treat it yourself. Seek expert advice; that's the best course of action," he said.

Merfalen also discussed the various activities hosted by Autism Society of the CNMI, which has been a chartered non-profit group for about a decade, to raise awareness about autism on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

These activities include the proclamation of Autism Awareness Month usually every April, trainings, and putting together individuals with autism in a social event to teach them social skills. The group also conducts an annual quiz night, which has been moved from December to February as holidays are a busy season, explained Merfalen.

The two thanked Hyatt's Nishikawa and congratulated the hotel on its 32nd anniversary.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Managing director Perry Tenorio of the Marianas Visitors Authority checks out the photo gallery at Giovanni's, which showcased Hyatt Regency Saipan's involvement for the past 32 years.

PDM Promoters awaits Tinian entries for annual holiday drawing tilt

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The Tinian entries to the "My Holiday Greetings to our Visitors" drawing contest have yet to arrive, according to Sonia Siwa of PDM Promoters, Inc.

Siwa said on Saturday that they have been going back and forth to the post office in an-

icipation of the drawing entries which were mailed last Nov. 19.

She added they do not have the total number of entries that were mailed out.

"My Holiday Greetings to our Visitors" is an annual drawing contest sponsored by PDM Promoters, Inc. for Rota and Tinian elementary students.

Contest winners will take

home cash prizes and gift packs.

Siwa disclosed that as of Saturday, they only received the 56 entries from Rota elementary students.

The judging of the drawing entries was supposed to coincide with the judging of the 7th Christmas Tree Decoration Contest, which was held during the launching of a bigger

"Christmas in the Marianas" celebration of the newly formed group Friends of Paseo de Marianas last Saturday.

"We will follow up again the Tinian entries this week before we have our judges evaluate the Rota entries," Siwa told *Saipan Tribune*. "We don't want the hard work and efforts of our students from Tinian to go to waste."



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Hyatt human resources director Josephine Mesta thanks the community for contributing to the company's success.

Babauta's performance evaluation underway

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Despite a lengthy discussion on whether to conduct an annual review and performance evaluation for CEO Juan N. Babauta, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board unanimously voted Friday to perform the task as mandated by Public Law 16-51 which established the corporation.

The decision was reached during Friday's board meeting where chair Joaquin Torres, initially expressed his opposition to the idea citing the move as "moot" at this time considering that Babauta's new contract has already been signed by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and was concurred by the board in October.

Babauta's contract became the subject of controversy among and between board members when it was learned that the contract took effect without the discussion and endorsement by the board as what is required by law. Based on the two-page contract of Babauta, he was approved a \$96,000 annual pay as CEO of the organization. It was signed last July 9 by Fitial, Babauta, and then attorney general Edward T. Buckingham. Last October, the board concurred with the agreement so it will be valid and legal in all terms.

Board member Anthony Raho was the one who pushed last Friday the conduct of the annual evaluation for the CEO, emphasizing to his colleagues that not fulfilling this task will

NMC Business Department info session set on Dec. 12

Working professionals looking to advance their career and those who are interested in earning a college degree in business are encouraged to attend the free Northern Marianas College Business Department Information Session on Dec. 12, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in Room D-1.

At the Information Session, attendees will learn about the NMC Business Department's expanded course offerings in different areas of business including management, accounting, marketing, or computer applications.

With more evening, weekend, and online courses, the Business Department has also been increasing the flexibility of its class to help working professionals maintain a full-time student status so that they can qualify for additional financial aid.

Attendance at the Business Department Info Session qualifies participants to receive a waiver of the admission application fee and the placement

mean a big failure for the board which is only in existence for barely a year now.

Raho's view was supported by vice chair Pete Dela Cruz who pointed out that format can still be established for the required review. He believes that the performance evaluation of the CEO has no bearing on the contract that was earlier concurred by the board.

The board, after spending an hour discussing the item, voted to conduct the review, which tools for evaluation, along with the format, have to be completed by Jan. 15. In the evaluation, each member is asked to provide their specific written comments on Babauta's performance as the organization's CEO.

Besides the review and performance evaluation for the CEO, members also adopted a decision affirming its goal to continue pursuing the \$7-million loan proposal to Marianas Public Land Trust. These monies, although it got the approval of the Legislature, have yet been released to the corporation pending the passage of sin-tax bill that will earmark projected revenues to the hospital.

Babauta last Friday said that CHCC will continue its efforts to get these monies. This, despite his admission, that the incoming Legislature seems not interested in passing the CHCC-recommended sin-tax bill which he said is also unpopular among community members. Babauta said that the hospital is reviewing the list of items to be included in the sin-tax legislation to make sure these are in accordance with the public health's

mandate to promote healthy foods to the community.

The CEO pointed out that the MPLT loan will provide CHCC breathing room only. In terms of survivability, he emphasized the need to continue the reduction-in-force, identify more certified public expenditure monies, reduce overtime costs, and other internal austerity measures.

LEGAL BRIEF WRITING TIPS

Superior Court and Supreme Court law clerks Eden Schwartz, Jeff El-Haji, Sean Lowe, and Sean Smith offer a perspective on legal brief writing tips before member of the CNMI Bar Association last Nov. 29.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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Fitial vetoes bill strengthening laws on sex crimes

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial vetoed on Friday a bill seeking to strengthen laws on sex crimes and domestic violence, citing “some very serious concerns” that the Office of the Attorney General raised including the removal of vital definitions that would hinder prosecution.

Rep. Edmund Villagomez’s (Cov-

Saipan) House Bill 17-193, House Draft 1 specifically seeks to establish minimum mandatory sentences for sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor, increase the time-served component necessary for parole eligibility, and amend existing definitions to clarify provisions relating to sex crimes and domestic violence. Villagomez is currently off-island.

Fitial said he had to disapprove the bill because the OAG raised some

very serious concerns about it.

“In sum, the bill unfavorably affects the entire criminal code by removing vital definitions; the new definition would hinder prosecution; the legislative intent is based on a misstatement of the law; and, policy-wise, CNMI prosecutors believe it may have the opposite effect of resulting in fewer convictions,” Fitial said in his veto message to Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota)

and House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan).

The governor attached the OAG memorandum which provides in detail the concerns with the bill in case members decide to address these concerns and resubmit a revised bill for consideration.

Deputy attorney general Viola Alepuyo, in her Nov. 16 memo to the governor, cited five major concerns about the bill.

She said HB 17-193, HD1 would have far-reaching effect of repealing the entire definitions section of the criminal code. She said many of these definitions are vital to the prosecution of other crimes, such as the definition of “serious bodily injured.” “Repealing this section cripples the prosecution of other crimes,” Alepuyo said.

The deputy AG said the revised definition of “sexual contact” creates an additional element that would not only increase a prosecutor’s burden

in proving a crime; the element is nearly impossible to prove.

Alepuyo also said the proposed definition of “sexual contact” is deficient in that it potentially decriminalizes a previously criminal act and criminalizes a relatively benign act.

Her fourth major concern on the bill is that the statement of legislative intent is based on a misstatement of the law.

She also said this measure may have unintended adverse policy effects on the enforceability of these crimes.

“This bill should not be signed because its effects would be almost opposed to the stated intent. It would affect the enforceability of many crimes and could result in less punishment of sex offenders. The Office’s advice is not to sign the current bill, but to encourage the Legislature to redraft the bill so that its effect will match its intent,” Alepuyo told the governor.

SDLLC

From Page 1

on the case.

Ayuyu, for his part, said Maratita may have gone too far.

“No one can instruct me or stop me from meeting people if I need to get the information that the public needs to know about the power purchase agreement. As a senator and chairman of the PUTC [Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications] Committee, I will find the right information from the people directly involved in this PPA,” Ayuyu told *Saipan Tribune*.

Maratita issued a public statement yesterday afternoon, calling on senators to “respect the people” and to “not hold private meetings” with SDLLC.

She also wrote a two-page letter to Ayuyu, telling him that it is “improper” for him to entertain SDLLC officials.

At around 4:20pm, Maratita, through attorney Ramon Quichoch, also requested the Superior Court to enter an order to show cause why Fitial and SDLLC should not be held in contempt.

Maratita asked the court to direct and order Fitial and SDLLC to comply with an Aug. 31 preliminary injunction and a Sept. 5 supplemental preliminary injunction, by refraining from pursuing the Aug. 3 PPA and all related agreements until final judgment is rendered in this case.

She asked the court to fine Fitial and SDLLC up to \$10,000 per day, for each day that any of them fails to comply with the preliminary and/or supplemental preliminary injunction.

Ayuyu said he and Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) met with SDLLC’s Kenneth Mahmood two weeks ago. The governor was in the same meeting.

The senators expect to have another meeting with other SDLLC officials this week.

Fitial also met with Kenneth Mahmood and SDLLC’s Jason Osborne, his former campaign manager.

The governor is currently in the Philippines on a regional fisheries conference, along with press secretary Angel Demapan, first lady Josie Fitial, and Division of Fish and Wildlife’s Richard Seman, a representative-elect under Fitial’s Republican Party.

Ayuyu said SDLLC’s David Mahmood and Don Kurz are also expected to arrive on island.

‘Stop the meetings’

Maratita asked senators to refrain from meeting privately with anyone regarding the PPA, one of the issues in a defeated resolution impeaching Fitial for 16 allegations of corruption, neglect of duty and felony.

“Any meeting with SDLLC officials should be open and public. This is the time for transparency, not the time to meet privately with anyone,” she said.

Ayuyu and Torres had said any upcoming meeting will be held in the Senate or the House, so that the general public would have a chance to listen in to the discussions.

Ayuyu said he respects the court process, and at the same time, he recognizes that the Legislature has the right to obtain information from SDLLC especially because the PPA affects a large number of people.

The full Senate joined Maratita, as well as Rep. Ray Yumul (IR-Saipan), in asking the court to stop the PPA.

Ayuyu was also main author of a Senate resolution asking the governor to cancel the RFP.

Maratita asked Ayuyu to “maintain your course and respect the judicial process.”

“Your decision to meet with SDLLC officials outside of a public hearing goes against transparency and could be construed as a step in the wrong direction. If the SDLLC officials have anything of educational value to share, they should not be meeting privately with legislators. If they have anything to say, it should be in a public forum. The time for secrecy is over now that this matter is in the courts,” she said.

In her letter to Ayuyu, Maratita said it is “improper for you to entertain individuals who did not appear to care to discuss this matter with the Legislature prior to the sole-source contract being executed.”

“Accordingly, as the principal litigant in the lawsuit filed on behalf of the people of the CNMI, I ask that you refrain from meeting with any officials of SDLLC outside of a public hearing as it may compromise our legal position and undermine our cause,” she said in her letter.

Ayuyu said he hasn’t seen Maratita’s letter yet but heard only of its contents.

He said it is important that lawmakers and the public in general hear directly from SDLLC officials “on how we ended up with this contract, this agreement.”

Ayuyu said SDLLC is still pursuing a multimillion-dollar shipyard facility and a diesel power plant.

LAWMAKERS

From Page 1

Some House members are also asking the administration to cancel the \$190.8-million diesel power purchase agreement for the same reason it cited in declining the \$80-million ferry deal—a lack of a thorough and complete study.

Rep. Ray Yumul (IR-Saipan) said yesterday that the administration should have shared with lawmakers and the public about the initial consideration of the \$80-million ferry, the *Susitna*.

“It is strange that they would want an economic study,” Yumul said, when the administration signed a sole-source, \$190.8-million deal with Saipan Development LLC without a thorough review or an economic analysis. That power deal is a subject of a pending lawsuit.

Rep. Janet Maratita (IR-Saipan) said the public should continue to be more vigilant.

“I wonder what other contracts or agreements are being negotiated. If it were not for media reports about the \$80-million ferry, we might not even know there were communications about it. Who knows, it may still continue later on,” said Maratita,

one of the co-authors of a defeated resolution impeaching the governor for allegations of corruption, neglect of duty and felony.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (IR-Saipan) said he’s relieved to hear that the administration is not pursuing the \$80-million ferry because of a lack of a feasibility study conducted on it.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan) and Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) also separately said earlier that it’s about time the administration does something right by not signing major contracts without conducting and completing economic studies.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the CNMI has been awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation to examine the feasibility of expansion of marine passenger and cargo services in the CNMI. The study is expected to be completed during the early part of 2013.

But lawmakers said once that study is done and recommends marine passenger and cargo services, the administration may go back to the vendors of the \$80-million ferry in Alaska.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) earlier said it is “insulting” that the CNMI people would know about the \$80-million ferry from newspapers on the mainland.

15K LIMIT

From Page 1

tension of the transition period. That 15,000 ceiling, with the initial 22,371 nonresidents, and the 11,735 CW-1 applications received, not only indicates the overall job loss in the CNMI. It also means there’s a continuing need for skilled labor in the CNMI that cannot be met within the local population. This is a strong argument for extending the transition period,” Pierce told *Saipan Tribune*.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced on Thursday that the limit for CW-1 workers is 15,000 for FY 2013.

The Chamber of Commerce is the largest business organization in the CNMI with over 150 members.

Pierce said “DHS would be negligent in complying with the caution

expressed within the Consolidated Natural Resources Act, where care is to be exercised in protecting the CNMI economy dependent upon those foreign national employees, if it were not to extend the transition period.”

If the transition period is not extended by the U.S. Secretary of Labor, the number of CW-1 workers should be zeroed out after Dec. 31, 2014.

Most CW-1 workers in the CNMI are from Asian countries such as the Philippines, China, Korea, Thailand, Bangladesh, and Japan.

The law that placed CNMI immigration under federal control, the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008, requires an annual reduction in the number of CW-1s, the nonimmigrant category for these transitional workers.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) said DHS’ 15,000 cap is “a step in the right direction.”

He said his primary concern is that qualified U.S. workers get any jobs that are available in the CNMI.

“Employers are not supposed to get a CW worker unless there is no qualified U.S. worker for the job. But we know that U.S. workers are still being passed over. When DHS set the limit for CW workers at 22,418 for 2012, it was clear that was many more workers than we needed; and it meant there was less reason for employers to hire U.S. workers. So I thought that number was wrong. For 2013 the number is 15,000. That is a one-third cut and a step in the right direction,” Sablan said.

The CNRA or U.S. Public Law 110-

229 requires zeroing out the number of CW workers by the end of 2014.

The law also says not to hurt the economy. So there is a balancing act to meet both those goals, Sablan said.

“Our economy will probably need CW workers beyond 2014, which is why I expect the Secretary of Labor to extend the transition period. And we all hope that our economy will grow, which is why we cannot reduce the number of CW permits that are available too quickly. But by lowering the cap significantly, as DHS has now done, we are all reminded that we have to put U.S. workers into more jobs and that we have to keep training more U.S. workers to fill the jobs of the future,” Sablan added.

DHS published a notice in the Federal Register announcing this decision.

The CW-1 transitional worker program allows foreign nationals who



Sablan

Tan Holdings is giving away over \$6,000 in prizes and \$1,750 in CUC bills this Christmas!



Grand Night RAFFLE DRAW

GRAND PRIZE: \$4,000.00

- \$1,000 Joeten Shopping Spree
- Up to \$1,000 in CUC bills
- \$300 Mobil Gas
- \$300 Triple J Wholesale
- \$250 D&Q
- \$250 Cosmos
- \$100 Athlete's Foot
- \$100 Skechers
- \$200 Modern Stationery
- \$200 National Office Supply
- \$100 Shirley's Restaurant
- Overnight-night stay for 2 w/ breakfast at Fiesta (\$180 equivalent)
- Dinner for 2 at Fiesta (\$60 equivalent)
- \$60 IT&E

2ND PLACE: \$2,000.00

- \$500 Joeten Shopping Spree
- Up to \$500 in CUC bills
- \$150 Shell Gas
- \$150 Triple J Wholesale
- \$100 D&Q
- \$100 Cosmos
- \$100 Shirley's Restaurant
- Overnight-stay for 2 w/ breakfast at Kanoa (\$150 equivalent)
- Dinner for 2 at Kanoa (\$60 equivalent)
- \$60 Docomo
- \$50 Athlete's Foot
- \$50 Skechers
- \$30 Modern Stationery

3RD PLACE: \$1,000.00

- \$250 Triple J Wholesale
- Up to \$250 in CUC bills
- \$150 Shell Gas
- \$100 D&Q
- \$100 Cosmos
- Sunday Brunch for 2 at Fiesta (\$70 equivalent)
- \$30 Shirley's Restaurant
- \$25 Skechers
- \$25 Modern Stationery

4TH PLACE: \$450.00

- \$100 Triple J Wholesale
- \$75 D&Q
- \$75 Cosmos
- \$50 Mobil Gas
- Dinner for 2 at Fiesta (\$60 equivalent)
- \$35 Shirley's Restaurant
- \$30 IT&E
- \$25 Modern Stationery

5TH PLACE: \$350.00

- \$75 D&Q
- \$75 Cosmos
- Dinner for 2 at Kanoa (\$60 equivalent)
- \$50 Shell Gas
- \$35 Shirley's Restaurant
- \$30 Docomo
- \$25 Skechers

6TH PLACE: \$250.00

- Sunday Brunch for 2 at Fiesta (\$70 equivalent)
- \$50 D&Q
- \$50 Cosmos
- \$30 Mobil Gas
- \$25 Shirley's Restaurant
- \$25 Skechers

7TH PLACE: \$150.00

- Sunday Brunch for 2 at Kanoa (\$70 equivalent)
- \$30 Shell Gas
- \$20 D&Q
- \$20 Cosmos
- \$10 Shirley's Restaurant

8TH PLACE: \$100.00

- \$25 D&Q
- \$25 Cosmos
- Dinner for 1 at Fiesta (\$30 Equivalent)
- \$20 Shirley's Restaurant

9TH PLACE: \$100.00

- \$50 D&Q
- Dinner for 1 at Kanoa (\$30 Equivalent)
- \$20 Shirley's Restaurant

10TH PLACE: \$100.00

- \$50 Cosmos
- \$30 Shirley's Restaurant
- \$20 Modern Stationery

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Weekly Drawing Dates:

October 06, 13, 20, 27, November 03, 10, 17, 24, December 01, 08, 2012

FINAL GRAND PRIZE DRAWING on Friday, December 14, 2012

CPA urged to use Tinian airport revenues to upgrade terminals

Tinian Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz wants the Commonwealth Ports Authority to utilize what it charges and collects from passengers to and from the island for much-needed improvements at the Tinian airport terminal which he described as a disgrace that continues to negatively impact the island's tourism industry.

Dela Cruz disclosed that CPA is charging \$4.50 each for passengers traveling from Saipan to Tinian or vice versa which translates to \$9 per person, per round trip, or about \$45,000 income yearly to the ports authority. This is in addition to the income generated by CPA from ticket counter and café leases.

In his letter dated Nov. 30 to CPA executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero, the mayor described these charges as counter-productive to Tinian's efforts to bring tourists to the islands and thus inhibiting economic development opportunities.

Dela Cruz requested CPA to eliminate or reduce these charges to passengers as it runs counter to what is being pushed by mayors all throughout Guam and the CNMI which is to promote an affordable, user-friendly transportation between the Mariana Islands through a co-operative working relationship among the mayors of Guam and the CNMI.

For the mayor, if commuter passengers are going to be charged, then the funds should be used to upgrade the terminals.

"The Saipan commuter terminal departure lounge is a disgrace. It needs to be painted. The TV has been gone for some time. It needs to be replaced and located in the Southwest corner so people can see the video and not be blinded by the sun. Also, there needs to be at least one drinking fountain in the terminal. The café closes at about 5:30pm, yet passengers for Tinian Dynasty Hotel are transiting all night long and there is no way for them to get a drink of water," Dela Cruz told the CPA chief.

Also needed to be prioritized, according to the Tinian mayor, is the repair of the "new" departure terminal in lieu of the anticipated direct flights from Taipei as a result of the investment of Howarm Golden Islands, which recently purchased the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

Dela Cruz disclosed that for many years, this departure terminal—though new—remains inoperable. In acknowledging the ongoing case due to defective design of the project, the mayor described as "unreasonable" that it has taken seven years to correct the problems and get the facility operational. *(Moneth G. Deposa)*

Customers First



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THANK YOU FOR SHOPPING WITH US

TRIPLE J MANAGEMENT

Man arrested after admitting he started Chalan Piao fire

A man was arrested Sunday after confessing that he started the structure fire in Chalan Piao on the same day.

Tebei Malaitau, also known as Teddy, was arrested for charges of arson and was transported to the Department of Corrections where he was booked and detained.

Police officers found Malaitau watching nearby the structure fire at the Rainbow commercial building across from the Bank of Guam Chalan Piao branch.

They interviewed the 34-year-old suspect who admitted starting the fire.

Malaitau was identified by some of the witnesses interviewed by patrol officers. The witnesses said a suspicious person was seen around the area before and after the fire started.

The suspect was described as a Palauan male in his mid-30s dressed in a dark T-shirt, light-colored short pants, and a black baseball cap.

Police, Fire, and Emergency Medical Services personnel were dispatched at about 5:11pm to the scene where they found the structure fully engulfed in fire and smoke.

The police assisted Fire and EMS staff in evacuating people from the Rainbow building and other adjacent buildings and provided a perimeter safety zone.

Seven of the nine units of the commercial building were damaged but no one was reported injured from the fire incident, which was put under control by firefighters at about 7:02pm.

Other agencies that provided assistance during Sunday's fire incident were the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Department of Homeland Security, and the Division of Environmental Quality.

The Department of Public Safety said investigation on the case is ongoing. *(Clarissa V. David)*

Man gets 1 year probation for selling fake Viagra

A man involved in selling fake Viagra last year got a one year probation from the federal court.

Chinese national Kwok Kwun Lee received his 12-month probation last Friday with conditions.

Lee and his Malaysian partner were earlier charged for their involvement in selling Viagra-like pills on Saipan. They both pleaded guilty in federal court in May this year. Lee specifically pleaded guilty to count 4 of the indictment charging him with receipt and delivery of misbranded drugs.

On Nov. 30, Lee appeared with counsel Stephen Nutting in the sentencing hearing in federal court.

The probation term imposed on Lee has conditions that include not committing another federal, state, or local crime and shall not unlawfully use or possess a controlled substance.

Lee was also required to perform 50 hours of community service under the direction of the U.S. Probation Office and shall pay a special assessment fee of \$25 immediately after sentencing. Lee has 14 days to appeal his case. *(Moneth G. Deposa)*

40th YEAR

Tan Holdings

Established 1972

Weekly Raffle Winners

PRIZE	TICKET NUMBER	NAME
GC- \$100.00 from Cosmos	13744	Alex N.
GC- Sunday Brunch for 2 @ World Cafe	5663	Ana Licop
GC- Sunday Brunch for 2 @ ISLA Cafe	2760	Diana
GC- Lunch Buffet for 2 @ World Cafe	7432	Vilma Sn.
GC- Lunch Buffet for 2 @ ISLA Cafe	9542	John Sablan
GC- fr. D&Q - \$20.00	13239	Noah Santos
GC- fr. D&Q - \$20.00	6806	Ramon J.
GC- fr. Cosmos - \$20.00	5271	Michelle Macaranas
GC- Dinner Buffet for 1 @ ISLA Cafe	6406	Estelita Macale
GC- Lunch Buffet for 1 @ ISLA Cafe	3486	Bin Xu

Winners must present their coupons to the Kanoa Resort front desk to receive prize.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Coastal Resources Management



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Coastal Resources Management Office (CRMO) will be holding a public hearing regarding Coastal Permit Application No. SMS-2012-X-061 submitted by 3M Environmental Consulting on behalf of U.S.A. Fanter Corporation for the quarrying operations in Kannat Tabla, Saipan. The project site is an existing pit formerly quarried by the Saipan Mayor's Office and MTDC located on public lands containing a total of 67,000 square meters. The project also includes rock crushing facility and batching plant operations.

The public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, December 18, 2012 at 6:30 pm at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, Saipan.

The public is invited to attend and make oral comments regarding this project. The project file is open for review and comments during business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. Written comments can be submitted to the CRM Office located in Susupe, Saipan immediately behind the Bureau of Motor Vehicle building, or mail to Coastal Resources Management Office, Caller Box 10007 or fax at 664-8315. All written and oral comments received will be made a part of the permit application record, and will be considered in any decision made concerning the proposed project.

Please contact Coastal Resources Management at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or require further information regarding this project.

RITA C. CHONG-DELA CRUZ
Administrator
Coastal Resources Management

Tinian mayor negotiates settlement with TCGC counsel

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A settlement negotiation is ongoing on a lawsuit filed by the legal counsel of the Tinian Casino Gaming Commission against the Tinian Mayors Office some five years ago.

Attorney Braddock J. Huesman, representing TCGC legal counsel Elliott A. Sattler, and attorney Robert Torres, representing Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, requested that the status conference scheduled for Thursday vacated to another time next year.

Sattler filed a lawsuit in 2007 against then Tinian Mayor Jose P. San Nicolas involving his attempts to interfere with the TCGC's budgetary authority.

In a two-page document filed in federal court Thursday, both counsels stated that the parties have engaged in settlement discussions in the hopes of resolving the matter without the need for additional briefing and a hearing. Initial meetings, they said, have gone exceedingly well.

"The parties met on Tinian, discussed the new budgetary law and its effects on the issues

surrounding the case. Both sides are evaluating the new budgetary law," stated the latest filing, adding that the review of the new law is not complete yet but parties are hopeful they can resolve all issues. However, they also admitted that this is not certain at this time.

Also Thursday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted the request of both counsels and ordered that status conference for the case continued on Jan. 31, 2013 at 10am.

Sattler earlier moved the federal court to reopen his 2007

lawsuit against the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan after the municipality is again allegedly attempting to interfere with TCGC's budgetary authority. Sattler has asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to enforce the terms of the consent decree that Sattler and the Tinian and Aguiguan mayor entered in June 2007.

The consent decree, which the federal court approved, provided that the mayor and his agents, could not retaliate against either Sattler or TCGC by "affecting, altering, or otherwise interfering

with the expenditure authority of the commission."

The court was asked to set a conference for this matter so that Sattler may enforce his rights under the consent decree. An order to show cause why the mayor should not be held in contempt of court for failing to adhere to follow the consent decree was also asked from the federal court.

Five years ago, then Tinian mayor Jose P. San Nicolas attempted to violate Sattler's rights by interfering with his contract and reducing his salary through a budgetary law

that allowed the mayor to usurp TCGC's budgetary authority. Sattler then filed a lawsuit, but the mayor agreed to enter into a consent decree. Then U.S. District Court for the NMI chief judge Alex Munson reinstated Sattler's \$110,000 per annum salary after declaring as unconstitutional a provision of the Tinian Municipal Appropriations Act of Fiscal Year 2006.

The current Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz or his agents were allegedly again using budgetary concerns to lower Sattler's compensation by reducing the sick leave, annual leave, and retirement contributions.

McTeacher's Night program launched on Saipan

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@yahoo.com
REPORTER

Creativity and commitment of CNMI public school teachers will be witnessed anew beginning this week as they perform another extraordinary role for their students.

McDonald's Saipan launched yesterday its newest campaign that primarily aims to assist public schools in meeting their immediate budgetary needs for student learning.

"McTeacher's Night" program was patterned after the successful campaign in Guam and U.S. states. The event will run throughout a whole year targeting to work with individual public schools on island.

McDonald's Saipan owner Marcia Ayuyu shared with *Saipan Tribune* that it has been her long desire to launch the program on Saipan, especially in this time of financial challenges of public schools.

"Whenever I traveled to the U.S. mainland, I always look for new ways to bring in customers to McDonald's and at the same time help the community. It's been a long time that I've been preparing for this program...and I hope it will also be a big success here just like Guam and the states," Ayuyu said, adding that to ensure that the program will be effective, she shared the idea with public schools and was grateful for the commitment expressed by school principals.

"McTeacher's Night" officially kicked off last night, with Kagman Elementary School teachers the first to take the challenge of serving as the fastfood's crewmembers in its Middle Road outlet.

Ayuyu said the program will provide participating public schools percentage of the store sales within the three hours they served each day. Under the program, school/schools are given three days to work as crewmembers for three hours during Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays all throughout the month. For December, KagES will take charge. Ayuyu, along with general manager Anna Olaes, disclosed that the program will provide the participat-

ing schools the following sales proceeds within the three hours they serve in a day schedule: for total sales from \$1,999 or less, the school will get a 10-percent share; 15 percent from sales of \$2,000 to \$2,999; and 20 percent for sales \$3,000 and above.

While admitting that proceeds from the program may not be enough to build a new classroom building for a public school, Ayuyu assured that whatever financial benefit the schools can get from McTeacher's Night will help in the immediate needs of schools and students such as supplies, minor repairs, books, and small projects.

Saipan Tribune learned that for KagES, the target project is the school's installation of

intercoms.

If KagES is successful in securing the December slot for the program, next to serve as crewmembers are teachers of San Antonio Elementary School which is scheduled for the whole January.

For February, three schools will join forces for McTeacher's Night: Koblerville Elementary School during Mondays; Kagman High School during Tuesdays; and San Vicente Elementary School during Wednesdays.

Meantime, Oleai Elementary School teachers are scheduled to take center stage in March, Garapan Elementary School in April, and Dandan Elementary School in May next year.

All public schools on Saipan are invited to take part in the campaign that will run through-

out next year and are encouraged to come up with "additional attractions" for their campaign.

Ayuyu is encouraging participating schools, students, and their parents to "own the McTeacher's Night" as the program is really designed to assist the public schools and the students.

"McTeacher's Night" is the second major campaign of McDonald's for public schools after the successful event last year that awarded schools based on the number of coupons collected by McDonald's outlets from participating schools.

"I myself is excited about this program because I can see that it's something good for the community and for our schools especially. I asked that our teachers and parents will take involve to make this a success for our students," added Ayuyu.



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

State Rehabilitation Council

&

Statewide Independent Living Council

P.O. BOX 501521, SAIPAN, MP 95950; TEL: (670) 322-6537/8 FAX: (670) 322-6536

TTY: (670) 322-6449; E-MAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the State Rehabilitation Council & Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY'13 First Quarter Joint General Membership meeting on Thursday, December 06, 2012 at Giovanni's, Hyatt at 9:00 am - 2:00 pm.

AGENDA

- I. Welcome & Introduction
- II. Brief Highlight of SRC & SILC Mission & the Nature of our Joint Meeting
- III. Review & approval of Agenda
- IV. Review and adoption of last joint SRC/SILC meeting
- V. Accomplishment Reports
 - SILC Chairperson – Steve Dutro
 - CIL Director – Lydia Igitol
 - SRC Chairperson – Isidro Seman
 - OVR Director – Margarita Olopai-Taitano
 - OVR Success Stories
- VI. Mutual Projects & 2013 Council Activities
 - Identification of funding sources
 - Resource Plan
 - Community forums
 - Issues on Accessibility and accommodations of services
 - Partnership & Supported Employment
 - Independent Living in community based settings
- VII. Announcements
- VIII. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY) two days before the meeting. For more clarification, please contact Elvira Seman at 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY).

Sid Seman
SRC Chairperson

Steve Dutro
SILC Chairperson

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DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS
P.O. Box 501000 C.K.
Saipan, MP 96950



ANNOUNCEMENT

LEADERSHIP AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY PHASE I (amendment from 10/10/12 announcement)

Opening Date: November 30, 2012

Closing Date: December 13, 2012

The Division of Youth Services under the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs will be opening thirty (30) job skills training opportunities that will be funded under the Community Services Block Grant, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The training will commence from December 19, 2012 to September 30, 2013 and will cover the following program areas: CHILD PROTECTION UNIT; JUVENILE PROBATION UNIT; PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAM; FAMILY AND YOUTH ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM AND DYS OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR. Selected participants must complete at least 100 hours of training from respective units/programs above and complete at least 5 trainings offered by DYS. Some specific responsibilities include, but not limited to:

- Assisting with administrative services
- Assisting with client services and program delivery
- Participating in Innovative and informative trainings offered by DYS
- Establishing positive collaborative relationships with the community
- Acting as outreach liaison between DYS and the community
- Conducting community needs assessment through various community outlets
- Performing other duties as assigned

The purpose of this program is to support activities designed to assist low-income families and individuals through training opportunities and at the same time receive stipend for the commitment demonstrated in strengthening youth development and prevention programs in the community. The stipend is a one-time \$500 payment for fulfilling the above requirements. Training hours will vary with the unit/program in which the selected participant is assigned to.

Applications may be picked up at the DYS Office of the Director, House #1324 in Capitol Hill. For further information, please contact Vivian Sablan at 664-2559 or Alex Olopai at 664-2552.

ANNOUNCEMENT

LEADERSHIP AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY PHASE II

Opening Date: November 30, 2012

Closing Date: December 13, 2012

The Division of Youth Services under the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs will be opening thirty (10) job skills training opportunities that will be funded under the Community Services Block Grant, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The training will commence from December 19, 2012 to September 30, 2013 and will cover the following program areas: PARENT EDUCATION CHILDREN'S PROGRAM; DYS EMERGENCY SHELTER PROGRAM AND FAMILY AND YOUTH ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM. Selected participants must complete at least 450 hours of training from respective units/programs above and complete at least 5 trainings offered by DYS. Some specific responsibilities include, but not limited to:

- Providing direct care, tutorial and recreational activities to Emergency Shelter clients
- Providing programs and services under the Parent Education Children's Program based on the Parents Anonymous Children's Program Standards and Benchmarks
- Assisting with the delivery of family and youth enhancement programs
- Participating in Innovative and informative trainings offered by DYS
- Assisting with the Community Outreach events and establishing positive collaborative relationships with the community
- Conducting community needs assessment through various community outlets
- Performing other duties as assigned
- The purpose of this program is to support activities designed to assist low-income families and individuals through training opportunities and at the same time receive stipend for the commitment demonstrated in strengthening youth development and prevention programs in the community. The one-time stipend for this opportunity is \$2,500 for fulfilling the above requirements, however, payment can be requested on a monthly basis. Training hours will vary with the type of services needing immediate scheduling. Applicants must meet certain requirements.

Applications may be picked up at the DYS Office of the Director, House #1324 in Capitol Hill. For further information, please contact Vivian Sablan at 664-2559 or Alex Olopai at 664-2552.

Department of Community & Cultural Affairs FY 2013 COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Department of Community & Cultural Affairs (DCCA) is soliciting request for proposals for FY 2013 Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) funds as defined in section 676A of the CSBG Act under Title XX of the United States Department of Health and Human Services. A total of \$90,000 is made available to be divided and sub-granted to 3 non-government agencies/non-profit community organizations in the CNMI upon meeting the specific qualifications/provisions of the said funding through the CSBG State Plan.

The purpose of the CSBG funding is to make grants to States and Territories for the reduction of poverty, the revitalization of low-income communities and the empowerment of low-income families to become fully self-sufficient. The special intent of this funding will be to fund projects that will provide services to the community who are considered economically disadvantaged addressed through the CSBG Six (6) National Performance Indicators.

All proposals must be submitted to the DCCA Office of the Secretary no later than December 13, 2012, 4:30 p.m. A copy of the grant general requirements/conditions, subgrantee responsibilities and other scope relating to the funding can be obtained at the DYS main office, House #1324 in Capital Hill. For additional questions or inquiries, please contact Vivian T. Sablan, CSBG Program Coordinator, at 664-2559 or Ms. Resel Magofna-Billy at 664-2568.

/s/ Melvin L.O. Faisao
DCCA Secretary

This ad has been paid for by the Community Services Block Grant under
The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Kagman resident arrested for assault, disturbing peace

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Police investigation found that there is probable cause to charge Kagman resident Martin Omar Jr. with disturbing the peace, assault, and assault battery after an incident last week.

Yesterday, the court imposed \$1,750 bail for the defendant who was arrested Thursday by authorities.

According to the investigation report completed by police detective Peter A. Aldan, 24-year-old Omar committed the charged crimes on Nov. 30 at a residence in Kagman I, south of Wan Fu Market at about 9:41am Thursday. The defendant was later transported and detained at the Department of Corrections.

Based on the report, Patrol Office Flor Estabilio arrived at residence and met with the defendant, his sister and her husband, who were the victims.

Police found out that at approximately 7:30am on Nov. 30, the victims were sitting outside their garage when they saw the defendant who walked out from the kitchen side with a bag full of tools owned by Omar's father who recently passed away.

Omar, according to the report, left the bag for a while in a tent outside the house to talk to a friend. While he was away, the female victim told his husband to take the tools from the bag and put those inside the trunk of their car.

Omar later came back looking for the items inside the bag. He aggressively approached the alleged victims and inquired about the missing items. Both victims denied knowing about the tools and that angered Omar.

The defendant later approached and pushed the male victim while threatening him that he will break both the victim's car and his face. For fear of his husband's life and other family members in the house, including two newborns, the female victim called police for assistance.

In yesterday's bail order, Omar was ordered to post 10 percent of the bond for temporary release. He was ordered to appear in court on Dec. 10, 9am, for preliminary hearing of the case. He will be represented by the public defender's office in the case and arraignment is set on Dec. 24, 9am.



Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec. 4, 2000

Amendment to full land rebate approved

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio on Friday approved an amendment to a new law that allows the government to pay full rebate to the tax paid by landowners whose properties are acquired for public land use. Public Law 12-31 cleared potential error in PL 12-16 that Finance Sec. Lucy DLG Nielsen raised to the governor when he signed the latter law in August. The amendment clarified a provision in that law with respect to the determination of the rebate offset base and rebate offset amount on tax paid to the government from the sale of private land, according to Mr. Tenorio.

Improved facilities for tourists with disabilities pushed

Developmental Disabilities Council Executive Director Thomas J. Camacho has signified anew support to efforts aimed at attracting large groups of tourists with disabilities to the Northern Marianas but added such moves would only flourish if public accommodations in the CNMI are built to cater to this type of visitors. In a letter to Pacific Development Inc. general manager Yoichi Matsumura, Mr. Camacho said that local retail stores, restaurant outlets, streets, traffic lights, and pedestrian right of ways, including other essential public services, should be readily accessible to tourists with disabilities to be able to entice this particular tourist market. "This, however, could only be accomplished if we all partner together and combine our resources to assess and remove those practices, policies and architectural barriers responsible for preventing this innovative market from traveling to our beautiful islands," said Mr. Camacho.

Dec. 4, 2001

Proposal to lower water rates for farms chided

A Senate bill that seeks to lower water rates for local farmers in the CNMI was criticized yesterday for being vague, unenforceable and for sounding more like a resolution than a proposed law. This was the near-unanimous consensus of the participants in yesterday's public hearing conducted by the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communication on Senate Bill 12-122. According to Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Board Chair Edward C. Sablan, the measure sounds more like a policy statement rather than any definitive piece of legislation.

Officials rally behind council empowerment

The Association of CNMI Municipal Councils Inc. plans to continue pursuing their goal to eventually be empowered to pass local laws in their respective municipalities. This consensus was reached during a recent two-day meeting on Saipan, where the members of the group all agreed to continue with their campaign to be given the powers to pass local laws. This comes in the wake of House Legislative Initiative 12-004, introduced by House Floor Leader Oscar Babauta, which sought to grant this power to municipal councils. The initiative failed to make it to the August 6 deadline this year for inclusion in a referendum on November 3.

Dec. 4, 2002

CPA nixes MPLA terms anew on seaport expansion

The Commonwealth Ports Authority rejected anew the conditions set by the Marianas Public Lands Authority on the use of public lands for the expansion of Saipan seaport operations. In a letter to acting MPLA Commissioner Henry Hofschneider, CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas said the MPLA board's approval for the use of public lands near the Saipan port and the restrictions they imposed is contrary to the ports authority's original request. "We are asking for MPLA to convey the public land in fee to the CPA for public purposes. Use of such land would include accommodating the current operational needs of the port and for providing more space for containers as we anticipate direct calls from the United States by a major shipping firm," explained Salas in a letter dated November 25.

CPA seeks lifting of liquor sales restrictions at all CNMI airports

In another attempt to generate additional revenue for the Commonwealth, ports authority officials will seek the lifting of restrictions on liquor sale at all CNMI airports. Commonwealth Ports Authority officials disclosed plans to ask Gov. Juan N. Babauta and the Legislature to pass a law that would allow all CNMI airports to serve liquor with no restrictions. This means that airports would be able to serve liquor on a 24-hour basis in the holding room areas. CPA officials noted that that move would generate more funds for the agency, since travelers are asked to check-in ahead of their flight schedules.

TSL Foundation gives \$1M to UOG



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan, fifth left, hands the \$1 million ceremonial check to University of Guam president Robert A. Underwood, fourth right, and board members of the UOG Endowment Foundation at a ceremony held Nov. 26 at the Jesus and Eugenia Leon Guerrero School of Business and Public Administration Building in Mangilao. Tan Holdings, through its charitable arm Tan Siu Lin Foundation, made the generous donation as part of its 40th anniversary as a regional company in Micronesia.

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tan Holdings, through its charitable arm Tan Siu Lin Foundation, demonstrated its continued commitment to Micronesia as the regional company recently made a \$1 million donation to the University of Guam.

Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan and executive vice president George Chiu presented the check donation to University of Guam president Robert A. Underwood, UOG Endowment Foundation executive director Mark Mendiola, and board members in a ceremony held Nov. 26 at the Jesus and Eugenia Leon Guerrero School of Business and Public Administration Building in Mangilao.

Last month's donation is part of the 40th anniversary of Tan Holdings, which began its operations in 1972 when it started a movie film distribution business in Guam.

Over the years, the company has expanded its commercial activities, operating businesses in the island such as the Fiesta Resort Guam, D&Q, Cosmos, Micronesia Mall and Agana Theaters, Central Lanes, CTSI

Logistics, Asia Pacific Airlines, and TakeCare.

The generous endowment is also the third made by Tan Holdings to UOG, with the first one awarded in 1985 for \$100,000 and the second donation was also for \$1 million in 2007 when the company marked its 35th anniversary.

"Being the highest educational institution in Guam, UOG is generating future work force for Guam's economy," Tan told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that the university has a big and beautiful campus that allows it to expand to accommodate new programs and buildings.

Tan, who graduated from UOG with a degree in accounting and management, noted the importance of education for his father and company founder, Dr. Tan Siu Lin, and the rest of his family.

"We believe that for a community to be prosperous and successful, residents must be well-educated," said Tan, whose siblings Henry, Willie, Lily, and Raymond are also alumni of the educational institution.

He thanked the people of Micronesia for supporting the Tan Holdings for four decades.

UOG theater presents 'Confessions of Profanity';

University of Guam students in the Acting I class will end their Fall 2012 semester with an exciting final project featuring the presentation of original theatrical works on the UOG stage.

Twelve students will present "Confessions of Profanity," monologues and dialogues written by UOG acting instruc-

tor and playwright, Tali Ariav, on Dec. 11 from 12:30pm to 1:30pm in the UOG Fine Arts Theatre.

This project will be the first time that first semester Acting students at UOG have presented original work on stage. The show is open to the public and free of charge. (PR)

"We look forward to another 40 years of partnership in this region," added Tan.

The UOG Endowment Foundation acknowledged the donation as the first capital infusion to its Capital Campaign, a five-year program that aims to raise \$30 million to pay for UOG projects that would transform the Guam campus.

"This is a profound statement of generosity," said UOG's Underwood during the presentation based on the video clip by the Pacific News Center.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MD. JAHANGIR ALAM
Petitioner,
vs.
LANGU-LINORE NORES,
Respondent.

FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0544

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 504812, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 27th day of November, 2012.

/s/ Clerk of Court

Saipan Tribune

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXII, Issue No. 283Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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EDITORIAL

A chance for calm in Congo

The Democratic Republic of Congo has been repeatedly ravaged by war, rebellion and attacks on civilians in the last two decades. Though the country is rarely without some skirmish going on somewhere—a result of a complicated history of rivalries among ethnic groups and constant conflicts over land ownership and resources—the government made a strategic move toward peace several years ago. It signed a treaty on March 23, 2009, with a rebel group called the National Congress for the Defense of the People, which had taken a fair amount of control over the mineral-rich eastern part of Congo and was backed by Rwanda, Congo's much smaller yet more powerful neighbor to the east.

Part of that truce called for incorporating members of the rebel militia into the Congolese military—a shrewd if dicey move on the part of President Joseph Kabila's government. That worked until early this spring, when the former rebels mutinied against the army—claiming that government officials had not held up their end of the peace accord—and broke away, taking the name M23, a reference to the month and date of the now-failed peace agreement.

Last week, M23 rebels easily took control of Goma, a provincial capital in eastern Congo. Stronger than the Congolese army, and just as brutal if not more so, they threatened to advance into other cities, opening the possibility that the country could be plunged into another chapter of turmoil and tragedy.

Although the international community was remiss in not trying to rein in M23 months earlier, it reacted quickly to this latest crisis. A regional summit of African leaders called on the M23 rebels to stop fighting and withdraw from Goma—and then to negotiate their demands with government officials. The Obama administration has officially condemned M23's takeover of Goma and called for the return of the city to government control. The U.S. assistant secretary of State for African affairs was dispatched to the region to press for a cease-fire and underscore the United States' condemnation of any outside support of the rebels.

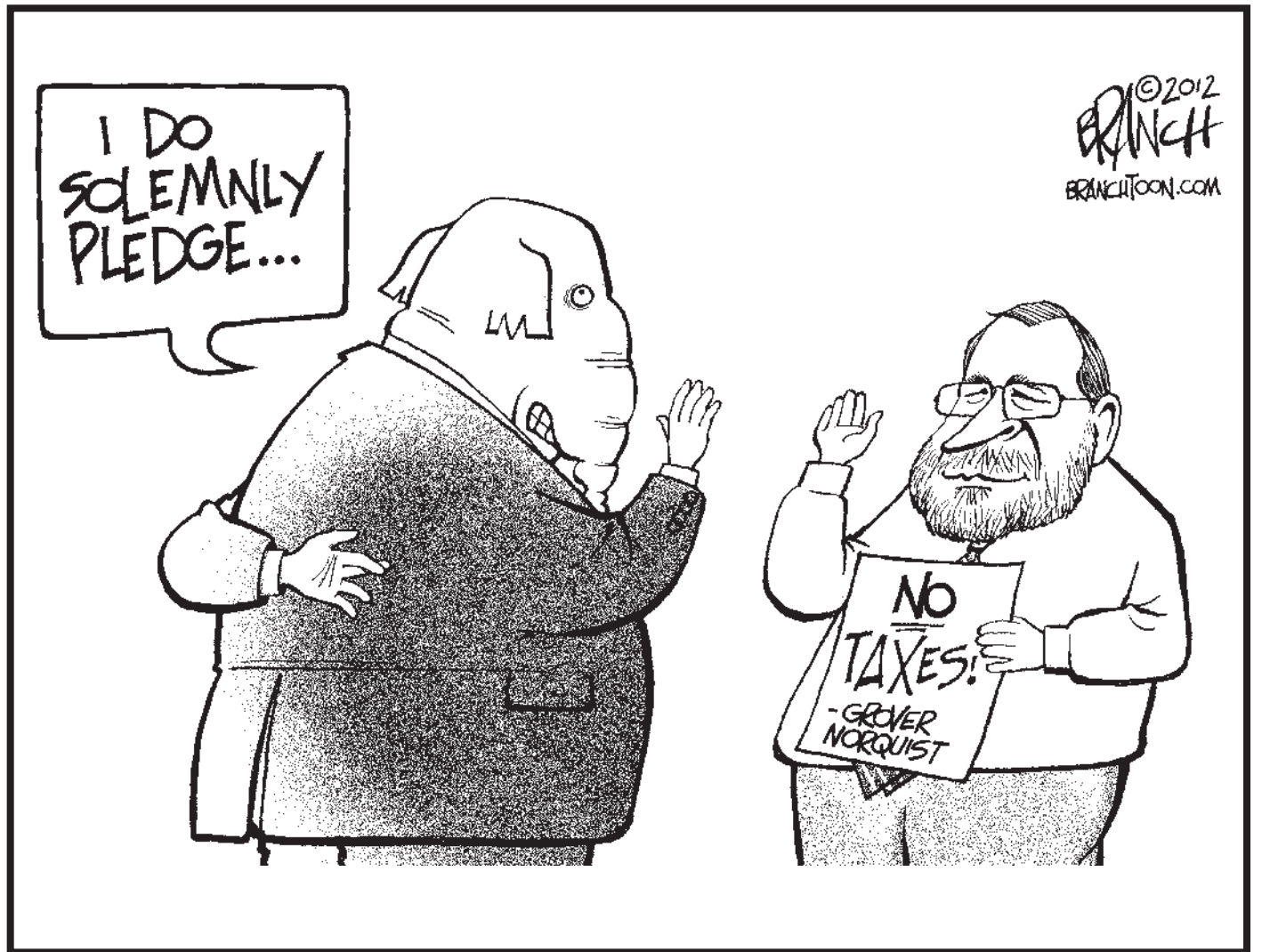
The M23 rebels include a number of human rights abusers whose records of violence stretch back a decade (long before they were integrated into the army) and include ethnic massacre, rape and recruitment of child soldiers, according to Human Rights Watch. Most notorious is Bosco Ntaganda, a senior rebel leader who was integrated into the Congolese army as a general at the time of the peace accord and is believed to still be involved with M23. (The rebels deny it.) He is wanted for war crimes by the International Criminal Court.

The M23 rebels, not surprisingly, have a list of demands—political prisoners released, the national election commission dissolved—but on Wednesday, they wisely announced that they would retreat from Goma, handing it back to government officials on Friday in advance of opening negotiations.

This is a promising start. Now comes the harder part. This is a region where promises often end up broken. M23 leaders say, for instance, that the government reneged on its promise to give them and keep them in high-ranking military positions. The government—in concert with its regional neighbors and with the support of the United States—must tackle the complex issue of how to run the eastern provinces of Congo and how to include the rebel groups that are rooted there and portray themselves as representatives of the beleaguered inhabitants. They are not going away. Dismiss them, and they will fight again.

That said, if the M23 leaders want to be taken seriously as power brokers and administrators, they could begin by swearing off the brutality of their past and strongly disavowing the vile Ntaganda. That alone would distinguish them as a force that doesn't merely seek military power, but truly wants to aid the people it says are neglected in eastern Congo.

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Why Susan Rice is wrong

Republicans are shooting themselves in the foot with a campaign to prevent U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice from being nominated secretary of state.

The assault on Rice is supposedly due to comments she made just after the attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi. The GOP just can't seem to drop its failed preelection plan to create a huge scandal out of the tragedy. But the anti-Rice crusade is not only unseemly; it's counterproductive.

By rousing President Obama's ire with a campaign against his friend Rice, Republicans are boxing him in to picking her over the other, better candidate, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman John Kerry. That's a shame, because Rice isn't the right choice for this critical position—for reasons that have nothing to do with the Benghazi attack.

Before I get to those reasons, let me bury the flap over Rice's minimal role in the Benghazi brouhaha. In appearances on several television talk shows after the attack, she said it was a spontaneous response to a notorious anti-Muslim YouTube video. Her remarks were based on talking points she'd been given in an intelligence briefing. She stressed that her information was incomplete pending further investigation.

You might fault Rice for not probing further, since news reports were already alluding to terrorist involvement. She might have done well to recall how Colin Powell was conned by his intel briefers about WMD in Iraq before his infamous 2003 speech at the United Nations. However, her repeat of her briefers' take on an assault still shrouded in CIA secrecy was hardly a sin.

A far more important issue is whether the U.N. ambassador has the proper temperament and background to succeed Hillary Clinton. It is here that the spotlight should be shone.

No doubt Rice is a highly intelligent woman, with degrees from Stanford and Oxford. But she has established a reputation for brusqueness and bluster that raises real questions about her suitability for the job.

She has riled European diplomats at the United Nations with her public criticism of their positions on Iran negotiations and other issues. She denounced Russian and Chinese vetoes of a Security Council resolution on Syria as "disgusting" and "shameful." That may well have been true, but such public displays of moral fervor will hardly help America's top foreign-policy emissary negotiate behind the scenes.

Equally worrying is the lack of heft and breadth in Rice's experience. During the Clinton administration, she worked on peacekeeping issues at the National Security Council and as assistant secretary of state for Africa. (She famously demanded that U.S. troops be sent to Sudan to prevent a genocide in the Darfur region—an idea that thankfully gained no traction.)

As U.N. ambassador, Rice helped persuade the president to en-

By TRUDY RUBIN

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to her at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by e-mail at trubin@phillynews.com.



dorse NATO intervention in Libya, but she has hewed to his reluctance to help the opposition in Syria, where the killing of civilians is far worse and the strategic stakes far greater. And the U.N. microcosm does not teach the skills she would need to manage America's relationships with the real world.

The next secretary of state will have to deal with a rising China and its nervous Asian neighbors. She or he will have to handle a convulsing Middle East and South Asia. Rice has expertise in none of these areas, and personal relationships with none of the region's leaders.

Kerry, on the other hand, with 27 years on the Foreign Relations Committee, knows every global player. Example: In 2009, when Afghan President Hamid Karzai flew into a dither and refused to sanction a presidential runoff election, Obama dispatched the Democratic senator from Massachusetts, who patiently walked Karzai around his Kabul residence for hours and won his acquiescence.

I can't imagine Rice doing something similar. Perhaps it's unfair, but I can only picture her demanding that Karzai get his act together, now.

Of course, the strongest card Rice has to play is that she and Obama are buddies. This friendship was forged when she abandoned the Clinton camp to join Obama's 2008 campaign.

However, looking back at another woman named Rice (Condo-leezza), who parlayed a campaign friendship with George W. Bush into high office, I don't regard pal-ship with POTUS as a guarantee of good performance. It took the first Rice several years before she shook off her buddy role and finally found her own strong, independent foreign-policy voice.

Obama, who has kept foreign-policy decisions close during his first term, will need to delegate more as he focuses on fixing domestic problems. The foreign-policy challenges the country faces will be huge. He needs someone with the broad global experience of Clinton, not someone learning on the job.

The president shouldn't let the Republican critique of Rice box him in to the wrong choice. And Republicans would do better to button their lips.

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Blacktop

We drove from Pasco on the rolling hills of the SE quadrant of Washington State of the U.S. in late 1975, on State highway 395 before it connected to Interstate 90, trying to catch a flight in Spokane for Chicago. I was on the steering wheel with an 80-year-old MD from Denver when we hit an iced blacktop. When I realized what I just hit, I let go off control of the wheel and just let the vehicle right itself when it stopped sliding.

The Buick sedan slid out of the pavement and turned over a couple of times until it righted itself up. We had our seatbelts on, and my passenger, a surgeon seasoned to medical emergencies, was more worried about me than his health. I was worried about his heart. We were both fine, as it turned out. The ground was solid enough, and I was too naive to know better that I drove back up into the highway. We carefully made our way to Spokane.

The car was built well. Except for side dents and scratches on the body, it did not suffer any major damage. My MD partner's son in Spokane who owned the car was only grateful that we came out alive, and declared that the damage looked minor enough he might not even have to bother his insurance company. He was probably just being gracious given our shocked state.

I was barely 30 years old then, and it was one of those events when the fragility of existence is dramatically internalized. I literally had the whole of my life flash before my eyes, in slow motion as the vehicle slipped-slid away on the icy grounds, most particularly those times when the car went belly up.

My passenger decided to stay the night with his son's family and I made it to the airport where my adrenalin ebbed by the time I discovered there were no flights I could take to the City by the Lake. It being just before Christmas on the shaking of the core of our per-

How to start solving Gaza's problems

When watching the continuing tensions between Israel and the Palestinian group Hamas, many have held on to a profoundly mistaken idea. I heard it again just recently from an otherwise well-informed observer. The conflict, this acquaintance confidently declared, will not be resolved until Israel lifts the blockade of Gaza.

The trouble with this line of thinking is that it ignores everything Hamas itself has stated about its goals, beliefs and strategy.

To understand the dispute it is not necessary to listen to a single word Israel says. A good starting point is Hamas' charter, easily found in many places online, including this one from Yale University at avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/hamas.asp.

The Covenant explains Hamas in great detail. It makes for a very educational read for anyone with an interest in understanding the tragedy that has befallen the people of Gaza.

For those uninclined to read the document, let me offer some highlights and a brief summary. Essentially, Hamas is committed, in writing, to Israel's destruction. It opposes negotiations, and it considers Jews, not just Israeli Jews, the enemy.

The Hamas Covenant gets to the point quickly. "Israel will exist ... until Islam will obliterate it." Then the introduction helpfully explains, "Our struggle against the Jews is very great and very serious."

Hamas rejects the existence of a Jewish state because it considers the land, as Article Eleven states, an "Islamic Waqf" a divine, unalterable endowment, "for future generations until Judgment Day." That applies to every inch of the territory, as its leaders have frequently said "from the river to the sea." So, we're not talking about the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, what Westerners normally call the occupied territory.

Hamas considers every piece of land on which Israel stands, including Tel Aviv, Haifa, the Galilee, all of Jerusalem—all of it—as

sonal foundations, I took the week off and boarded a flight to L.A.

I remember that day more than 36 years ago this week when we stepped out into frozen blacktop roads at the Shenyang Aerospace University campus here in Shenyang northeast China. The snow came down during the week in the Liaoning archipelago after we watched the rest of north China experience unprecedented snow on the ground and freezing temperatures in the air. At the campus, the combination of daylight sun and freezing nights made glazed surfaces of the northern streets that are shaded in E-W buildings. The winter sun stays southward during the day, missing northern shadows.

So this familiar campus Lao ye (grandpa) was seen this week with measured steps as he gingerly waddled through the sub-zero temperature like a wrapped penguin with well defined girth, avoiding reprising the incident a few days back when we lost balance and found our backside and heine on the ground.

It is the existential reality of our finitude that came home to roost this week. We are now into December, the last month before the New Year, as we feel in our bones the winter of our sunset years. Though the Yule season comes as a celebration of birth in the Christendom of our upbringing, the shadow of one's terminus is cast not too far behind.

Even commerce seem to have had a sense of this in Thursday's Thanksgiving sales that opened the Christmas shopping season, immediately followed by the chaos of Black Friday bargains, topped by Cyber Monday for those who do their walking with fingers rather than legs, with plasticized debts rather than cash.

Our mythology is rather clear that "unto us a child is born" in Bethlehem is about setting one's sights towards the illusions and delusions of Solomon's portico on the temple mount of Jerusalem. The powers that be reflexively and invariably respond with the ignominy of the cross, an earlier one in Golgotha. Undeterred, the faithful witness to the loneliness of a Gethsemane, swear by an empty tomb, and enshrine a shared breaking of fast once held on

exclusively Muslim land, by divine grant, for which it must fight to the death.

Hamas leaders may occasionally agree to ceasefires, or talk in conciliatory tones to the Western media, but their objective, clearly stated, is that nobody has a right to negotiate. "Who could claim the right to represent Muslim generations until judgment day?" asks the charter.

So, the fight is not about negotiating a two-state solution; much less about lifting a siege.

Hamas considers all of Israel "occupied" Muslim land. And speaking of occupation, in 2005 Israel withdrew every single one of its soldiers, along with tens of thousands of Jews who lived in Gaza.

Many people still speak of the Gaza "occupation" although Hamas governs a territory without any outside forces—except for the occasional Iranian military advisor. They say it is occupied because Israel keeps control of the sky and at sea. That's the sky, by the way, across which thousands of rockets fly towards Israel.

When Israel's critics talk about the "siege" of Gaza, they have a puzzling tendency to ignore Gaza's other international border, a border with Egypt.

"Humanitarian" flotillas challenge Israel's sea blockade, a legitimate tool under international law, but they apparently don't check their maps to realize anything Gaza cannot get from Israel it might obtain across its border with Egypt which, incidentally, is governed by the Muslim Brotherhood, of which Hamas is the Palestinian branch.

It's disingenuous to demand Israel freely open a border to a regime that has proclaimed its intention to destroy it, and it's dishonest to make that demand when borders are conduits for weapons deliveries from Iran to Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

form of a scam. Politicians in the United States are the most distrusted individuals in the nation and they will do anything to win an election. Our 2012 mid-term elections in the CNMI was influenced by the mainland United States politics.

For instance Mr. Gill of Lodi (CA) was portray by his opponent as a do nothing individual for his parent paid for his way in his life. Hh-hmmm, it is a mind boggling that a California politician was using the same political tactics that was being implemented in the past two Federal elections in the CNMI. In our opinion there was a connection between the Stockton political strategy and the CNMI. It is the beginning of a new political era in the CNMI and it is here to stay. It is up to us to interpret the intention of our politicians in the CNMI, so we can make a better decision when it comes to who will represent our interest in our life.

Corruption had been imbedded in our human race, since the beginning of the first form of government that our ancestors created to better themselves. Impeaching our sitting governor will not solve

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



the shores of Galilee.

So we play with our symbols this December to make it clear that the glory of birth and the grace in death are but opposite sides of the same coin, the value of the coin being the substance in between. In the coinage of life's realities, it is the journey from womb-to-tomb that constitutes historic meaning and significance.

It is hard to feel icy blacktops on the sunny asphalts of Saipan where, as an extension of the fictitious economy of the United States priced on speculated and manipulated value of an illusory financial market, we still operate as if our economy can continue on the tails of Washington's artificial financial cliffs, and NYC's bloated Wall Street.

Foundational to any economic process is how we practice sustainable utilization of our resources—natural, human, and technological, then justly harness production with appropriate instruments, local forces, and broad participatory systems, finessing with equitably distributing the benefits from the process.

Politically impeaching Fitial and crying over the retirement fund maybe therapeutic distractions, but they do not constitute the core element of our Commonwealth lives. We hear echoes of the Bill Clinton campaign: it's the Economy, stupid!

Happily, we are not stupid. Economic resource utilization and local production is our main task. Let December's brooding in the Commonwealth lead to the path of a sustainable and productive new year.

By FRIDA GHITIS

McClatchy Newspapers

Frida Ghitis writes about global affairs for The Miami Herald. Readers may send her e-mail at fjghitis@gmail.com.



Some of the most dangerous missiles fired by Hamas and other Iran-linked groups at Israel—at Tel Aviv and Jerusalem—in the latest round were Iranian-made Fajr-5 rockets.

It's easy to stop noticing the stripes, to hear a purr instead of the roar, but anyone thinking of Hamas and other militant Islamist groups in Gaza as harmless pussy cats can easily be reminded of the sharpness of their claws. Hamas' charter proclaims in Article Eight that "death for the sake of Allah is the loftiest of wishes."

Before Hamas' rockets became a daily source of terror for Israelis near Gaza, the group sent scores of suicide bombers into Israeli cities killing hundreds of civilians, including children, fathers, mothers, grandmothers.

A commercial recently aired on Palestinian television addressed Israelis, saying, "We've missed suicide attacks. Expect us soon at bus stations and cafes."

So, to anyone thinking that a lifting of Israel's strict restrictions on Hamas-held Gaza would put an end to the tensions and the killing, I suggest a few minutes listening to or reading Hamas' own words.

A real solution would require rescinding Hamas' commitment to the destruction of the Jewish State, something Israel and other countries have long demanded of Hamas in exchange for lifting sanctions and moving to a constructive relation.

Now, that would really help the people of Gaza.

our problem within our political system, but it will divide further our people within our dearest island chain.

Based on other formed of governments elsewhere in the world, our solution of getting rid of our corrupted behavior within the CNMI government had been starring us in our face. The federal government should give our brothers and sisters the opportunities to become the newest family of the United States of America and for them to participate within our political system.

It will not guarantee stopping corruption within the CNMI government, but it will at least minimize the corrupted behavior of our aspiring CNMI politicians. Before closing, it is better to give in our life than to receive and remember the people who had contributed to our advancement in our dearest island chain.

Segundo Castro
Fresno, CA

LETTER TO THE EDITOR**More kudos**

We would like to congratulate Mr. Hocog and Ms. Santos for been given the opportunity to represent the people of Rota this coming 18th CNMI Legislature.

Who are we to question the voices of the majority? We question the voices of the majority when they had been misled for believing that they were doing something to better our society.

Do we do things for the fact that our fear had been used and abused by the very people whom we depend in our lives. Maybe the people of Rota did not fall for the scam from our aspiring politicians who instill fear within our society to get ahead with their political careers.

The word politic in itself is misleading and it meant to us as a

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The Weather

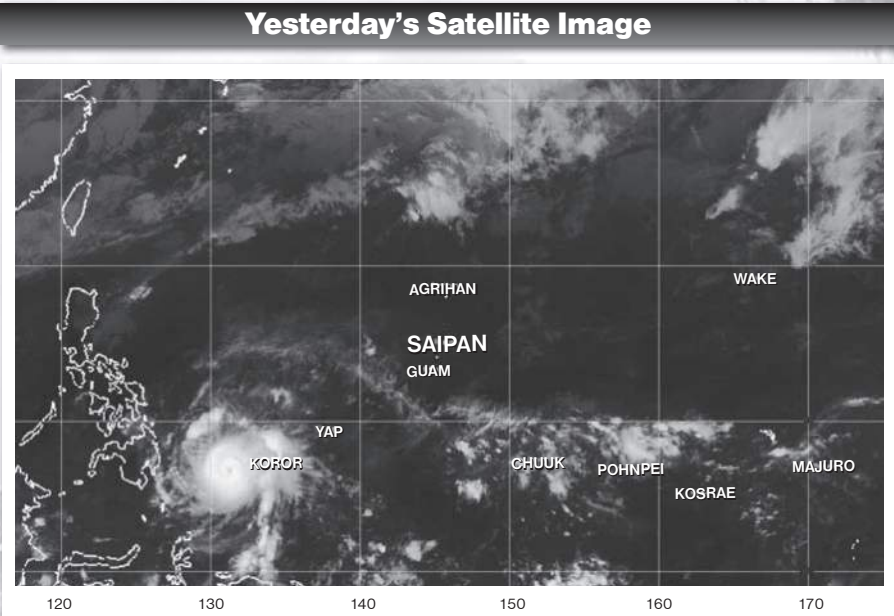
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲89° ▼77°	▲89° ▼77°	▲89° ▼77°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲88 ▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲87 ▼81
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87 ▼78
Kosrae	Showers	▲87 ▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲88 ▼81

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Showers	▲70 ▼64
Beijing	Windy	▲33 ▼18
Hong Kong	Showers	▲64 ▼61
Honolulu	Showers	▲80 ▼70
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲38 ▼31
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲68 ▼53
Manila	Thundershowers	▲84 ▼79
Melbourne	Showers	▲65 ▼52
Miami	Showers	▲77 ▼66
New York	Cloudy	▲57 ▼49
Osaka	Cloudy	▲49 ▼41
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲42 ▼32
Pusan	Showers	▲51 ▼35
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲53 ▼35
Salem	Rain	▲53 ▼45
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲65 ▼61
Seoul	Snow	▲37 ▼21
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲54 ▼40
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲67 ▼52

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
4:53 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
12:05 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
6:05 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
10:21 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Bopha (26W) is centered 240 miles west of Koror Palau at 7N131E and moving westward at 17 mph with maximum sustained winds of 120 mph. Heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms are found up to 250 miles from the center including Koror. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are also found farther south of Koror within 80 miles of a line from 4N134E to EQ133E. For more information on Typhoon Bopha, refer to bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms north of Chuuk and Pohnpei between 8N and 10N from 146E to 162E and between Kwajalein and Majuro within 100 miles of a line from 7N168E to 11N174E. A cold front near Iwo To island extends southwestward from 25N135E to beyond 130E at 23N. Patchy clouds and scattered showers are present near the front north of a line from 21N130E to 25N141E while scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found farther to the east north of a line from 23N143E to 23N147E.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:29 AM	5:45 PM	Today	10:25 PM	10:27 AM
Wednesday	6:29 AM	5:46 PM	Wednesday	11:15 PM	11:08 AM
Thursday	6:30 AM	5:46 PM	Thursday		11:49 AM
Friday	6:31 AM	5:46 PM	Friday	12:07 AM	12:30 PM
Saturday	6:31 AM	5:47 PM	Saturday	12:59 AM	1:13 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7		UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7	
UA5062	4:40am	5:30am	1, 3, 5		UA5071	7:05am	7:55am	Daily	
UA5068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily		UA5073	9:50am	10:40am	Daily	
UA5074	11:10am	12:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7		UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7	
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily		UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily	
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily		UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily	
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily						
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)					NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily		DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily	
DL297	4:25pm	7:20pm	Daily		DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily	
SAIPAN-PUSAN (BUS)					PUSAN (BUS)-SAIPAN				
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 6, 7		OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 5, 6	
OZ608	3:30am	6:40am	3		OZ607	9:35pm	2:25am+1	2	
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)					SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN				
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1		OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily	
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7		OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7	
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily		OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)					SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN				
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7		3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7	
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)					BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN				
MU7108	2:50am	5:55am	1, 3, 5		MU7107	6:30pm	1:50am+1	2, 4, 7	
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)					GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN				
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6		3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5	
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)					VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN				
VLK1734	2:00am	8:15am	5 every other week		VLK1733	8:00pm	12:05am+1	4 every other week	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1		OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN	
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7		DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT	
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM		UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM	
DL287/173	6:00am	10:20pm	Daily via NRT		UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM	
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM		UA702/605	12:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		OZ702/605	12:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN		PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM		UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:55am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	
					UA184/5071	11:59pm	7:55am+1	2, 5 via GUM	
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)					HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN				
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN		OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN	
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ724/605	1:50pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
UA5076/147	3:10pm	10:30pm	1, 5 via GUM		OZ724/605	1:50pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:20pm	Daily via ICN		UA180/5073	11:25pm	10:40am+1	1, 5 via GUM	

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

PHOTOS By CLARISSA V. DAVID

Martin Nievera Live Concert



Twins Martin and Vicky Nievera share a light moment on stage.



Hopwood Jr. High School principal Jonas Barcinas touts Tan Holdings as an inspiration and a role model to the community.



Jerry Tan, president of Tan Holdings which sponsored Friday's concert, thanks the audience and communities throughout Micronesia for their four decades of support to the regional company.



Philippine Concert King Martin Nievera belts out a song during a concert held Friday night at the Hopwood Jr. High School Field, where some 6,000 fans gathered to watch the famed balladeer perform onstage in celebration of the Tan Holdings' 40th anniversary in the Micronesian region.



Event host Bojo Molina of Guam, right, gestures as he scans the crowd as another host, Tan Siu Lin Foundation manager Ed Arriola Jr. looks on.



Vicky Nievera sings for the audience.



Composer Louie Ocampo, who leads Martin Nievera's backup band, smiles as he raises his arms during the concert.



Paul Dujua conducts some 20 members of Marianas High School's Rhythm and Harmony Glee Club. ▲

◀ The award-winning Rhythm and Harmony Glee Club of Marianas High School serves as the concert's opening act.

Business

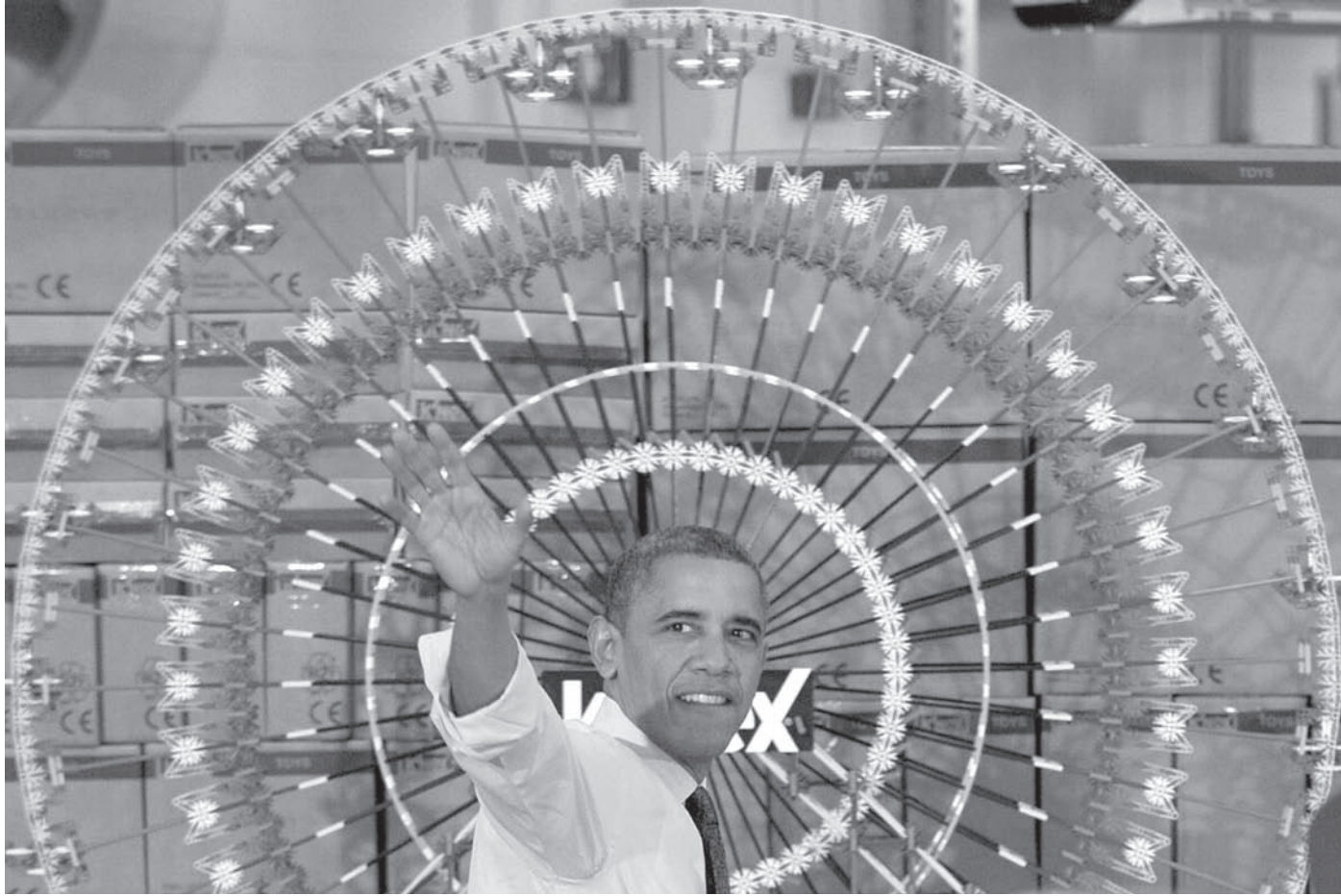
‘Cliff’ talks: White House waiting on GOP move

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republicans have to stop using “political math” and say how much they are willing to raise tax rates on the wealthiest 2 percent of Americans and then specify the spending cuts they want, Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner said in an interview that aired Sunday.

Just four weeks from the proverbial “fiscal cliff,” House Speaker John Boehner countered that Republicans have a plan for providing as much as \$800 billion in new government revenue over the next decade and would consider the elimination of tax deductions on high-income earners. But when pressed on “Fox News Sunday” for precise details, the Ohio Republican declined to say.

There are “a lot of options in terms of how to get there,” Boehner said.

Both Boehner’s and Geithner’s latest remarks indicate it could be some time before serious negotiations begin between the White House and Republicans on how to avert economic calamity expected in less than a month when President George W. Bush-era tax cuts expire and automatic, across-the-board spending cuts kick in.



President Barack Obama waves after speaking at the Rodon Group, which manufactures over 95% of the parts for K'NEX Brands toys, Friday, Nov. 30, 2012, in Hatfield, Pa. The visit comes as the White House continues a week of public outreach efforts, while also attempting to negotiate a deal with congressional leaders.

Last week, the White House delivered to Capitol Hill its opening plan: \$1.6 trillion in

higher taxes over a decade, hundreds of billions of dollars in new spending, a possible ex-

tension of the temporary Social Security payroll tax cut and enhancing the president’s power to

raise the national debt limit.

In exchange, the president would back \$600 billion in spending cuts, including \$350 billion from Medicare and other health programs. But he also wants \$200 billion in new spending for jobless benefits, public works projects and aid for struggling homeowners. His proposal for raising the ceiling on government borrowing would make it virtually impos-

sible for Congress to block him.

Republicans said they responded in closed-door meetings with laughter and disbelief.

“I was just flabbergasted,” Boehner said. “I looked at him (Geithner) and I said, ‘You can’t be serious.’” Boehner described negotiations as going “nowhere, period,” and said “there’s clearly a chance” the nation will go over the cliff.

Geithner, the administration’s point man for negotiations, was slightly more optimistic while saying the ball was in Boehner’s court. But the treasury secretary also said he didn’t expect a counteroffer right away, as Republicans work to sort out tensions within the party in the wake of bruising national elections that left Democrats in charge of the White House and the Senate.

Boehner acknowledged in his interview, aired Sunday, that he wasn’t happy with public remarks by Republican Rep. Tom Cole of Oklahoma, who said he was ready to go along with Obama’s plan to renew expiring income tax cuts for the majority of Americans and negotiate the rates on top earners later.

“They’re trying to figure out where they go next,” Geithner said of Republicans, “and we might need to give them a little time to figure out where they go next.”

He called the back-and-forth “normal political theater,” saying all that’s blocking a timely deal is the GOP’s reluctance to accept higher tax rates on the wealthy.

Brinksmanship on Obama Medicaid expansion for poor

WASHINGTON (AP)—It’s health care brinksmanship, with hundreds of billions of dollars and the well-being of millions of people at stake.

President Barack Obama’s health care law expands Medicaid, the federal-state health program for low-income people, but cost-wary states must decide whether to take the deal.

Turn it down, and governors risk coming off as callous toward their neediest residents. Not to mention the likely second-guessing for walking away from a pot of federal dollars estimated at nearly \$1 trillion nationally over a decade.

If the Obama administration were to compromise, say by sweetening the offer to woo a reluctant state, it would face immediate demands from 49 others for similar deals that could run up the tab by tens of billions of dollars.

As state legislatures look ahead to their 2013 sessions, the calculating and the lobbying have already begun.

Conservative opponents of the health care law are leaning on lawmakers to turn down the Medicaid money. Hospitals, doctors’ groups, advocates for the poor, and some business associations are pressing them to accept it.

“Here’s the big thing: The state does not want to expand Medicaid and get stuck with the

bill,” said Dr. Bill Hazel, Virginia’s health secretary. “Our legislators do not like to raise taxes to pay for a benefit someone else has promised. The concerns we have ... are around federal solvency and the ability of the federal government to meet its commitment.”

Medicaid covers nearly 60 million low-income and disabled people but differs significantly from state to state. Under the health care law, Medicaid would be expanded on Jan. 1, 2014, to cover people making up to 138 percent of the federal poverty line, or about \$15,400 a

year for an individual.

About half the 30 million people gaining coverage under the law would do so through Medicaid. Most of the new beneficiaries would be childless adults, but about 2.7 million would be parents with children at home. The federal government would pay the full cost of the first three years of the expansion, gradually phasing down to a 90 percent share.

The Supreme Court said states can turn down the Medicaid expansion. But if a state does so, many of its poorest residents would have no

UK finance boss: Debt-cutting slower than expected

LONDON (AP)—Britain’s Treasury chief acknowledged Sunday the economy is taking longer than expected to recover from the financial crisis, but insisted he will not waver from his policy of tax hikes and spending cuts.

George Osborne said the British government might miss its self-imposed goals of cutting debt as a share of national income by 2015/16 and of balancing the current budget.

Osborne said he would introduce new tax measures for the rich on Wednesday, along with further moves to trim welfare spending.

The Conservative-led government is cutting 50 billion pounds (\$80 billion) in spend-

ing through 2015 in a bid to slash the national debt, which stands at more than 1 trillion pounds (\$1.6 trillion).

But critics say the government’s austerity policy has failed to kick-start the economy, which has been through two periods of recession since 2008.

“It is clearly taking longer to deal with Britain’s debts, it’s clearly taking longer to recover from the financial crisis than one would have hoped, but we have made real progress,” Osborne told BBC television.

But he insisted that any change of course now “would be a complete disaster.”

“Undermining the credibility of our deficit plan, going back on our commitment to deal with

other way to get health insurance. The subsidized private coverage also available under Obama’s law is only for people making more than the poverty level, \$11,170 for an individual. For the poor, Medicaid is the only option.

Although the health care law fully funded the Medicaid expansion and Obama has protected the program from cuts, the federal government’s unresolved budget struggles don’t give states much confidence.

Most states, including Republican-led Virginia, are considering their options.

our debts, would be a complete catastrophe for Britain,” he said. “(That) would put us into the place where some European countries are at the moment and that is not a place where Britain wants to be.”

Ahead of Osborne’s semi-annual statement, the Office for Budget Responsibility will announce financial figures, expected to show higher borrowing and lower growth than previous estimates.

Vicky Redwood, an economist at Capital Economics, said those figures will force Osborne “to choose between introducing even more austerity in the autumn statement and letting at least one of his fiscal rules slide.”

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Singapore in talks to sell Virgin Atlantic stake

SINGAPORE (AP)—Singapore Airlines says it’s in talks to sell its 49 percent stake in Virgin Atlantic. The airline said in a statement it’s in discussions with “interested parties” about a sale. A person with knowledge of the possible deal told The Associated Press that Atlanta-based Delta Air Lines Inc. is in talks with Singapore Airlines about buying the Virgin Atlantic stake. The person requested anonymity because the talks are ongoing. The remaining 51 percent of Virgin Atlantic is owned by billionaire Richard Branson, who founded the airline in 1984.

News Corp Int’l news chief to step down

NEW YORK (AP)—The head of media conglomerate News Corp.’s U.K. newspaper operations is stepping down. Tom Mockridge, who was CEO of News International since July 2011, will leave the company at year-end to pursue outside op-

portunities, the company said in a statement Sunday. Mockridge joined the company in 1991. News Corp. Chairman and CEO Rupert Murdoch says that Mockridge’s “decision to step down is absolutely and entirely his own.”

Spain’s disabled protest austerity cuts

MADRID (AP)—Disabled people took to the streets of Madrid on Sunday in the latest protest against broad austerity measures, angry over government cutbacks reducing services, closing disability centers and forcing care workers from their jobs. More than 10,000 people, many in wheelchairs or being led by guide dogs, marched in a demonstration with the slogan “SOS Disability: Save our Rights, Inclusion and Welfare.” Health care spending falls under the responsibility of regional governments, many of which are indebted. Some local administrations have failed to pay medical centers, forcing cuts in services and a slowdown in the distribution of medicine.

Nation

5 states to increase class time in some schools

WASHINGTON (AP)—Open your notebooks and sharpen your pencils. School for thousands of public school students is about to get quite a bit longer.

Five states were to announce Monday that they will add at least 300 hours of learning time to the calendar in some schools starting in 2013. Colorado, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York and Tennessee will take part in the initiative, which is intended to boost student achievement and make U.S. schools more competitive on a global level.

The three-year pilot program will affect almost 20,000 students in 40 schools, with long-term hopes of expanding the program to include additional schools—especially those that serve low-income communities. Schools, working in concert with districts, parents and teachers, will decide whether to make the school day longer, add more days to the school year or both.

A mix of federal, state and district funds will cover the costs of expanded learning time, with the Ford Foundation and the National Center on Time & Learning also chipping in resources. In Massachusetts, the program builds on the state's existing expanded-learning program. In Connecticut, Gov. Dannel Malloy is hailing it as a natural outgrowth of an education reform



In this Jan. 12, 2012 file photo, Education Secretary Arne Duncan speaks at Lincoln High School in Gahanna, Ohio. School for thousands of public school students is about to get quite a bit longer. F

law the state passed in May that included about \$100 million in new funding, much of it to help the neediest schools.

Spending more time in the classroom, education officials said, will give students access to a more well-rounded curriculum that includes arts and music, individualized help for students who fall behind and opportuni-

ties to reinforce critical math and science skills.

"Whether educators have more time to enrich instruction or students have more time to learn how to play an instrument and write computer code, adding meaningful in-school hours is a critical investment that better prepares children to be successful in the 21st century," Ed-

ucation Secretary Arne Duncan said in a statement.

The project comes as educators across the U.S. struggle to identify the best ways to strengthen a public education system that many fear has fallen behind other nations. Student testing, teacher evaluations, charter schools and voucher programs join longer school

days on the list of reforms that have been put forward with varying degrees of success.

The report from the center, which advocates for extending instruction time, cites research suggesting students who spend more hours learning perform better. One such study, from Harvard economist Roland Fryer, argues that of all the factors affecting educational outcomes, two are the best predictors of success: intensive tutoring and adding at least 300 hours to the standard school calendar.

More classroom time has long been a priority for Duncan, who warned a congressional committee in May 2009 - just months after becoming education secretary - that American students were at a disadvantage compared to their peers in India and China. That same year, he suggested schools should be open six or seven days per week and should run 11 or 12 months out of the year.

But not everyone agrees that shorter school days are to blame. A report last year from the National School Boards Association's Center for Public Education disputed the notion that American schools have fallen behind in classroom time, pointing out that students in high-performing countries like South Korea, Finland and Japan actually spend less time in school than most U.S. students.

Third storm in less than week drenches NorCal

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Residents of Northern California endured the brunt of another powerful storm that drenched the area with yet another round of pounding rain and strong winds, but damage from the storm was less than expected, officials said.

The latest storm system—the third to hit the area in less than a week—moved across the region late Saturday and early Sunday dropping as much as an inch of rain per hour in some areas, toppling trees and knocking out electrical service to tens of thousands of people, officials said.

Rivers across Northern California swelled from the deluge, but did not flood as extensively as had been expected, officials said.

Forecasters had issued flood warnings for the Napa and Russian rivers, two rivers north of San Francisco with a history of flooding, as well as the Truckee River, near Lake Tahoe, but by Sunday afternoon had canceled the warning for the Russian River.

"It (the storm) moved through a bit faster than it was looking like it would, so it didn't plant on top of us and keeping raining,"

said Austin Cross, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service. "The period of heavy rain didn't last as long."

In Napa, where officials had handed out more than 8,000 sandbags and about 150 tons of sand before the storm hit, officials breathed a sigh of relief Sunday afternoon after the heaviest rain moved out of the area and the city appeared to avoid any major damage from the storm.

"We've had some minor street flooding and some of the intersections were flooded,"

Napa city spokesman Barry Martin said.

Flood construction projects were credited with keeping the river within its banks through the city, while most of anticipated flooding, expected around 6 p.m. Sunday, was expected to hit a mostly agricultural area outside of the city, officials said.

In Truckee, 30 miles west of Reno, city officials were focusing on snow removal Sunday afternoon instead of flood control after the town received 4 to 5 inches of snow in the morn-

ing, said Assistant City Manager Alex Terrazas.

"We continue to keep an eye on the river, but things are certainly better than they could have been," he said. "We'll transition back to flood management if we need to."

Besides the speed in which the system moved through the area, weather officials were heartened by colder temperatures than expected in the mountains, meaning more snow and less rain fell.

In far Northern California, flood warnings remained in effect Sunday for the Eel, Navarro and Mad rivers.

Man in barista death linked to 7 other killings

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—A man charged in the death of an Alaska barista was found dead in his jail cell Sunday, and authorities announced hours later that investigators have linked him in recent months to seven other possible slayings in three other states.

Israel Keyes, who had also confessed to killing a Vermont couple, died of an apparent suicide, authorities said at a hastily assembled news conference that included U.S. Attorney Karen Loeffler, the FBI, and Anchorage police.

Keyes was facing a March

trial in Anchorage federal court for the murder of 18-year-old Samantha Koenig, who was abducted from a coffee kiosk in the city last February. He was later arrested in Texas after using the victim's debit card.

Keyes confessed to killing Koenig, as well as killing Bill and Lorraine Currier of Essex, Vt., Anchorage police chief Mark Mew told reporters.

The bodies of the Curriers have never been found. They were last seen leaving their jobs on June 8, 2011. Co-workers reported them missing the next day.

Keyes, 34, also indicated he

killed four others in Washington state and one person in New York state, but didn't give the victims' names, authorities said.

The FBI contends Keyes killed Koenig less than a day after she was kidnapped. Her body was recovered April 2 from an ice-covered lake north of Anchorage.

Koenig's disappearance gripped the city for weeks.

A surveillance camera showed an apparently armed man in a hooded sweat shirt leading Koenig away from the coffee stand. Koenig's friends and relatives established a reward fund

and plastered the city with fliers with her photo in hopes of finding the young woman alive.

Prosecutors said Keyes stole the debit card from a vehicle she shared that was parked near her home, obtained the personal identification number and scratched the number into the card.

After killing Koenig, Keyes used her phone to send text messages to conceal the abduction, according to prosecutors. He flew to Texas and returned Feb. 17 to Anchorage, where he sent another text message demanding ransom and directing it to the account connected to

the stolen debit card, according to prosecutors.

Keyes made withdrawals from automated teller machines in Alaska, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas before his arrest in Texas, according to prosecutors. He was charged with kidnapping resulting in Koenig's death.

Koenig's family said there was no apparent previous connection between the teen and the suspect. Reached by phone Sunday, Koenig's father, James Koenig declined to comment on Keyes' death.

In Vermont, the U.S. Attorney's Office said in a statement Sunday that they have been working with investigators in Alaska since April on the Currier case.

ACROSS THE NATION

Coast Guard member dies in crash off Calif. coast

VENTURA, Calif. (AP)—A U.S. Coast Guard member was killed and another was injured when their small boat was rammed by a smuggler's vessel before dawn Sunday off the Southern California coast. Terrell Horne III of Redondo Beach was pronounced dead after being brought ashore at the Port of Hueneme (why-NEEM-mee), said Ventura County chief deputy medical examiner James Baroni. He suffered a traumatic head injury, Coast Guard officials said. The second man was treated for minor injuries. His name wasn't released. The smuggler's panga, which was running without lights, maneuvered at a high rate of speed directly at the small boat before fleeing, according to a Coast Guard statement. Both Coast Guard members were thrown into the water.

Boston church votes to sell book published in 1640

BOSTON (AP)—Congregants of one of the nation's oldest churches have voted to auction off a 372-year-old hymn book that's expected to fetch \$10 million to \$20 million at auction. Members of the Old South Church in Boston authorized the sale of one of its two copies of the Bay Psalm Book, which was published in 1640. It is among the first books ever published in North America, and only 11 copies remain. Board of Trustees Chairman Phil Stern says the church wants to continue growing its endowment and take care of some "critical capital needs." He says although there was loud opposition to the sale, the vote wasn't close, with 271 votes cast in favor and 34 against.

Skiing Santas hit the slopes in Maine

NEWRY, Maine (AP)—A bunch of Santas have hit the slopes at a Maine ski resort. Nearly 300 skiers and snowboarders decked out in red and white were gathering at the Sunday River resort for the annual "Santa Sunday" event. Spokeswoman Darcy Morse says 292 of them pre-registered. The 13th annual event raises money for the Bethel Rotary Club's annual holiday toy drive. Those who participated showed up in a Santa outfit and donated \$10 or more to the toy drive. Participants got to ski free for the day and receiving another lift ticket good through Dec. 14.

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

Typhoon blows near Philippines, evacuations urged

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A strong typhoon was heading toward the southern Philippines on Monday, and hundreds of people were evacuating coastal areas in the storm's path. Fishermen and ships were warned not to venture out to sea. Typhoon Bopha is expected to hit land Tuesday morning but would not directly hit Manila if it stays on its current path, government weather forecaster Jori Loiz said. The storm has sustained winds of 175 kilometers per hour (109 miles per hour) and gusts of up to 210 kph (130 mph). Its center was 550 kilometers (342 miles) southeast of Surigao del Sur province's Hinatuan township Monday morning. It is moving at 24 kph (15 mph).

Catholic brother arrested on Australia sex charges

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—New Zealand police have arrested a former Catholic brother and convicted pedophile after Australian authorities filed 252 new charges against him. Police say they arrested 65-year-old Bernard Kevin McGrath on Friday in Christchurch after he voluntarily returned to New Zealand from Sri Lanka. A judge on Monday released the former St. John of God brother on bail. New South Wales police say they've investigated a large number of sexual assault claims by former students of the St. John order's Kendall Grange school for boys in the town of Morisset, about 110 kilometers (70 miles) north of Sydney.

Bomb kills 2 police officers in northwest Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—A bomb ripped through a police van as it was patrolling in northwestern Pakistan on Monday, killing two officers and wounding two others, police said. The attack took place on the outskirts of the city of Peshawar, which is located on the edge of Pakistan's tribal region, the main sanctuary for Taliban militants in the country. The city has been hit by frequent bombings over the past few years. It's unclear if the blast was caused by a roadside bomb or a suicide bomber, said senior police officer Javed Khan. The bombing completely destroyed the police van that was hit, he said.

Pacific nations alarmed by tuna overfishing

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Pacific island nations and environmentalists raised an alarm Sunday over destructive fishing methods and overfishing that they say are threatening bigeye tuna—the fish popular among sushi lovers worldwide.

Palau fisheries official Nannette Malsol, who leads a bloc of Pacific island nations, said at the start of a weeklong tuna fisheries conference in Manila that large countries should cut back on fishing, curb the use of destructive fishing methods and respect fishing bans to allow tuna stocks to be replenished in the Pacific, which produces more than 60 percent of the world's tuna catch.

The annual meeting of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, which regulates commercial fishing in the vast expanse of waters from Indonesia to Hawaii, is to approve steps aimed at protecting the bigeye and other threatened tuna species, along with giant whale sharks. More than 600 delegates from about 40 Asian and Western countries, along with environmental activists, are attending.

Malsol said she expects heated debate. Proponents of the multibillion-dollar fishing industry have squared off with conservationists in the past over the best ways to protect the bigeye and other species without considerably setting back the lucrative business.

Bigeye and yellowfin tuna, which can grow to 8-9 feet (2.4-2.7 meters) long and weigh more than 450 pounds (200 kilograms), are not in immediate danger of



An environmental activist wears a costume while depicting a school of tuna with others during a rally outside the South Korean Embassy in suburban Taguig, south of Manila, Philippines on Thursday, Nov. 29, 2012.

being wiped out, but have been hit hard by overfishing. The fish are used mostly for steaks, and in the case of bigeye, sushi.

The fisheries business in the western and central Pacific region, estimated to be worth about \$5 billion annually, has drawn increasing numbers of industrial fishing fleets, which have caused tuna stocks to fall since the 1960s.

"This week it's up to the big fishing nations to show the world what they are going to do to cut overfishing of bigeye

tuna," Malsol said.

Repeated telephone calls and messages to industry officials seeking comment Sunday were not answered.

Many fleets are using so-called "fish aggregation devices"—various types of floats which are used to lure vast numbers of tuna. When schools of tuna have massed under the devices, fishing vessels alerted by sensors approach and scoop up their catch with giant nets.

Between 47,000 and 105,000 fish aggregation devices, made

from bamboo, palm fronds, plastic or old nets, have been deployed worldwide to attract a wide variety of marine life. The method is used to catch nearly half of the world's tuna and has contributed to the overfishing of bigeye tuna across the Pacific Ocean, according to the U.S.-based Pew Environment Group.

Aside from tuna, sea turtles, sharks and juvenile fish have often been caught and killed.

"The deployment of tens of thousands of drifting fish ag-

gregating devices in the world's oceans with little to no oversight is extremely worrisome," said Amanda Nickson of the Pew Environment Group.

"The fishing industry is not currently required to account for its use of FADs. It is being allowed to gamble with the health of the ocean, and it is time for governments to require full accountability and management of this proliferating and risky fishing gear," Nickson said.

Conservation efforts, however, have been tough to implement and have sparked disagreements.

Greepeace activists said they will submit evidence to the fisheries commission detailing violations of regional tuna fishing rules by Southeast Asian countries including allowing fishing vessels to operate on the high seas without permits and required observers onboard.

A decision by the fisheries commission to exempt the Philippines from purse seine fishing—an industrial technique in which a net is used to surround and capture schools of fish—in a large swath of the Pacific has sparked complaints from other nations.

The exemption was given to discourage Philippine fleets from fishing in territorial waters off the country's eastern coast, which are known spawning grounds for tuna that later spread out to the Pacific.

Philippine Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala asked the fishing commission to extend the exemption, which he said started last October and would end in February next year.

Highway tunnel ceiling slabs fall in Japan, kill 9

TOKYO (AP)—Concrete ceiling slabs fell onto moving vehicles deep inside a long Japanese highway tunnel, and authorities confirmed nine deaths before suspending rescue work Monday while the roof was being reinforced to prevent more collapses.

Two vehicles caught fire in the accident Sunday morning, and heavy smoke initially hindered rescue efforts. The location of the accident about 1.7

kilometers (a mile) inside the 4.7-kilometer (3-mile) long Sasago Tunnel was also making the work difficult.

The nine dead were traveling in three vehicles in the tunnel about 80 kilometers (50 miles) west of Tokyo on a highway that links the capital to central Japan. The tunnel opened in 1977 and is one of many in the mountainous country.

The search was suspended Monday morning while the

highway operator does work to support the remaining slabs in the ceiling, said Jun Goto, an official at the Fire and Disaster Management Agency. It's expected to resume by afternoon.

Goto said it's not clear if there are other survivors.

Police and the highway operator Central Japan Expressway Co. were investigating why the concrete slabs collapsed. An inspection of the

tunnel's roof in September found nothing amiss, according to Satoshi Noguchi, a company official.

An estimated 270 concrete slabs, each weighing 1.4 metric tons (1.54 short tons), suspended from the arched roof of the tunnel fell over a stretch of about 110 meters (120 yards), Noguchi said.

The operator was exploring the possibility that bolts holding a metal piece suspending the

panels above the road had become aged, he said. The panels, measuring about 5 meters (16 feet) by 1.2 meters (4 feet), and 8 centimeters (3 inches) thick, were installed when the tunnel was constructed in 1977.

Company President and CEO Takekazu Kaneko said that the company was inspecting other tunnels of similar structure, including a parallel tunnel for traffic going in the opposite direction. Both sections of the highway were shut down indefinitely.

Two people suffered injuries in the collapse.

China concerned over North Korean launch plans

BEIJING (AP)—China expressed concern Sunday over its ally North Korea's plans to launch a long-range rocket in mid-December.

All sides should work for stability and avoid acts that raise tensions, the Foreign Ministry said in a brief statement. It acknowledged North Korea's right to the peaceful use of outer space, but said that had to be

harmonized with restrictions including those set by the United Nations Security Council.

"We hope all relevant parties will do that which benefits peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, hope all sides will respond calmly and avoid exacerbating the situation," ministry spokesman Qin Gang said in the statement.

The North Korean launch, set for Dec. 10 to 22, is likely to

heighten already strained tensions with Washington and Seoul as South Korea plans to hold a presidential election on Dec. 19 and President Barack Obama prepares to begin his second term.

It would be North Korea's second launch attempt under leader Kim Jong Un, who took power following his father Kim Jong Il's death nearly a year ago. That first launch eight

months ago earned North Korea widespread international condemnation, despite ending in an embarrassing misfire.

Some analysts have expressed skepticism that North Korea has corrected whatever caused the first failure. North Korea says the rocket will be mounted with a polar-orbiting Earth observation satellite.

Despite its close ties to

North Korea, previous Chinese statements have had little perceptible effect.

China is North Korea's only major political ally and its main source of food and fuel for keeping the North's moribund economy from collapsing. However, Beijing has been highly resistant to using any of its leverage to moderate North Korea's behavior, fearing that could cause an implosion leading to political chaos and a wave of refugees crossing its border.

World

Carbon pollution up to 2 million pounds a second

WASHINGTON (AP)—The amount of heat-trapping pollution the world spewed rose again last year by 3 percent. So scientists say it's now unlikely that global warming can be limited to a couple of degrees, which is an international goal.

The overwhelming majority of the increase was from China, the world's biggest carbon dioxide polluter. Of the planet's top 10 polluters, the United States and Germany were the only countries that reduced their carbon dioxide emissions.

Last year, all the world's nations combined pumped nearly 38.2 billion tons of carbon dioxide into the air from the burning of fossil fuels such as coal and oil, according to new international calculations on global emissions published Sunday in the journal *Nature Climate Change*. That's about a billion tons more than the previous year.

The total amounts to more than 2.4 million pounds (1.1 million kilograms) of carbon dioxide released into the air every second.

Because emissions of the key greenhouse gas have been rising steadily and most carbon stays in the air for a century, it is not just unlikely but "rather optimistic" to think that the world can limit future temperature increases to



In this Dec. 16, 2009 file photo, steam and smoke rise from a coal burning power plant in Gelsenkirchen, Germany.

2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit), said the study's lead author, Glen Peters at the Center for International Climate and Environmental Research in Oslo, Norway.

Three years ago, nearly 200 nations set the 2-degree C tem-

perature goal in a nonbinding agreement. Negotiators now at a conference under way in Doha, Qatar, are trying to find ways to reach that target.

The only way, Peters said, is to start reducing world emissions now and "throw every-

thing we have at the problem."

Andrew Weaver, a climate scientist at the University of Victoria in Canada who was not part of the study, said: "We are losing control of our ability to get a handle on the global warming problem."

In 1997, most of the world agreed to an international treaty, known as the Kyoto Protocol, that required developed countries such as the United States to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about 5 percent when compared with the baseline year

The 2011 figures for the biggest polluters:

- 1** China, up 10 percent to 10 billion tons.
- 2** United States, down 2 percent to 5.9 billion tons.
- 3** India, up 7 percent to 2.5 billion tons.
- 4** Russia, up 3 percent to 1.8 billion tons.
- 5** Japan, up 0.4 percent to 1.3 billion tons.
- 6** Germany, down 4 percent to 0.8 billion tons.
- 7** Iran, up 2 percent to 0.7 billion tons.
- 8** South Korea, up 4 percent to 0.6 billion tons.
- 9** Canada, up 2 percent to 0.6 billion tons.
- 10** South Africa, up 2 percent to 0.6 billion tons.

of 1990. But countries that are still developing, including China and India, were not limited by how much carbon dioxide they expelled. The United States never ratified the treaty.

The latest pollution numbers, calculated by the Global Carbon Project, a joint venture of the Energy Department and the Norwegian Research Council, show that worldwide carbon dioxide levels are 54 percent higher than the 1990 baseline.

Egypt's highest court joins judicial strike

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's highest court joined a judicial rebellion against President Mohammed Morsi on Sunday by declaring an open-ended strike on the day it was supposed to rule on the legitimacy of two key assemblies controlled by allies of the Islamist leader.

The strike by the Supreme Constitutional Court and opposition plans to march on the presidential palace on Tuesday take the country's latest political crisis to a level not seen in the nearly two years of turmoil since Hosni Mubarak's ouster in a popular uprising.

Judges from the country's highest appeals court and its sister lower court were already on an indefinite strike, joining colleagues from other tribunals who suspended work last week to protest what they saw as Morsi's assault on the judiciary.

The last time Egypt had an all-out strike by the judiciary was in 1919, when judges joined an uprising against British colonial rule.

The standoff began when Morsi issued decrees on Nov. 22 giving him near-absolute powers that granted himself and the Islamist-dominated assembly drafting the new constitution immunity from the courts.

The constitutional panel

then raced in a marathon session last week to vote on the charter's 236 clauses without the participation of liberal and Christian members. The fast-track hearing pre-empted a decision from the Supreme Constitutional Court that was widely expected to dissolve the constituent assembly.

The judges on Sunday postponed their ruling on that case just before they went on strike.

Without a functioning justice system, Egypt will be plunged even deeper into turmoil. It has already seen a dramatic surge in crime after the uprising, while state authority is being challenged in many aspects of life and the courts are burdened by a massive backlog of cases.

"The country cannot function for long like this, something has to give," said Negad Borai, a private law firm director and a rights activist. "We are in a country without courts of law and a president with all the powers in his hands. This is a clear-cut dictatorial climate," he said.

Mohamed Abdel-Aziz, a rights lawyer, said the strike by the judges will impact everything from divorce and theft to financial disputes that, in some cases, could involve foreign investors.

Palestinian president returns triumphantly from UN

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)—The Palestinian president returned triumphantly to the West Bank on Sunday, receiving a boisterous welcome from thousands of cheering supporters at a rally celebrating his people's new acceptance to the United Nations.

An Israeli decision to cut off a cash transfer to the financially troubled Palestinian Authority, following an earlier decision to build thousands of new homes in Jewish settlements, failed to put a damper on the celebrations.

But Palestinian officials acknowledged they were undecided on what to do with their new-found status, and were waiting for upcoming Israeli elections

and new ideas from President Barack Obama before deciding how to proceed.

Outside the headquarters of President Mahmoud Abbas in the West Bank city of Ramallah, some 5,000 people thronged a square, hoisted Palestinian flags and cheered their leader's return from New York. Large posters of the Palestinian leader, whose popularity had plummeted in recent months, adorned nearby buildings.

"We now have a state," Abbas said to wild applause. "The world has said loudly, 'Yes to the state of Palestine.'"

The United Nations General Assembly last week overwhelmingly endorsed an independent Palestinian state in the

West Bank, east Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip, territories Israel captured in the 1967 war.

The move to upgrade the Palestinians to a nonmember observer state does not change much on the ground, but it carries deep potential significance.

The vote amounted to an international endorsement of the Palestinian position on future border arrangements with Israel and an overwhelming condemnation of Israeli settlements in the areas claimed by the Palestinians.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rejects a return to Israel's 1967 lines. Israel remains in control in parts of the West Bank and considers east Jerusalem, the Palestinians'

hoped-for capital, an integral part of its capital.

Israel also continues to restrict access to Gaza. Israel withdrew seven years ago from the coastal strip, and it is now ruled by Hamas Islamic militants who regularly fire rockets at Israel.

Israel, backed by the U.S., campaigned strongly against the statehood measure, accusing the Palestinians of trying to bypass direct peace negotiations, which it said were the only viable path to a Palestinian state.

The Israeli lobbying efforts failed miserably. Just eight other countries voted with Israel, and even its closest allies in Europe, including Germany, Italy, France and Britain, either abstained or voted with the Palestinians.

Syrian warplanes strike rebels in Damascus suburbs

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian warplanes and artillery blasted parts of the capital Damascus and its rebellious suburbs on Sunday, part of what activists described as intense fighting as rebels try to push their way into the center of President Bashar Assad's power base.

In central Syria, a car bomb killed at least 15 people, the official news agency reported.

The fighting over the past few weeks in Damascus is the most serious in the capital since July, when rebels captured several

neighborhoods before a swift government counteroffensive swept them out.

The Britain-based activist group Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said fighter jets struck twice in the suburb of Daraya as regime artillery pounded other districts just south of Damascus.

The Syrian air force also launched airstrikes on the northern city of Aleppo, some cities in the northern province of Idlib and the Mediterranean city of Latakia, the Observatory said.

The group relies on reports from activists on the ground.

The Damascus suburbs have been opposition strongholds since the uprising against Assad began in March 2011. In the past weeks, the army has pressed an offensive to regain lost territory near the capital, including two air bases. The Observatory said there was also ongoing fighting in towns near the Damascus International Airport on the southern edge of the city. The towns include Aqraba, Beit Saham and Yalda.

The road to the airport from

Damascus was closed on Thursday because of heavy fighting, but authorities reopened it after troops secured the area, activists said. The Information Ministry said on Saturday the airport was operating normally and that the road leading to the facility is "totally secure."

On Sunday, EgyptAir Chief Executive Roshdy Zakaria said the country's national carrier will resume flights to Damascus and Aleppo after a three-day suspension because of poor security on the roads around the two airports.

Focus

AP Exclusive: Strife hardens Syrian rebel brigade

BEN HUBBARD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MAARET MISREEN, Syria (AP)—A year ago, a soft-spoken sweet shop owner from this poor Syrian town got together with his little brother and eight friends to declare war on President Bashar Assad.

They didn't have enough guns to go around. Their leader, 35-year-old Mustafa Filfileh, had no real military experience and little idea how to face one of the Mideast's strongest armies. He didn't even know how to drive.

They learned fast. On Nov. 17, the brigade called "The Beloved of Allah" braced for its biggest challenge yet, making it clear how far its members had come and how far the war had brought them from their former lives.

Men who once sold real estate, laid bricks, wore suits and treated sick farm animals armed themselves with vests laden with ammunition, hand grenades and pocket-sized copies of the Quran. After a two-month siege, they planned to storm a major military base in one of the larger coordinated attacks of the uprising.

It was late 2012, the year that Syria's uprising outpaced the other Arab Spring revolts to become the longest, deadliest and most brutal, killing more than 40,000 people and chasing more than 1 million from their homes.

During the past year, scores of rebel brigades across Syria like The Beloved of Allah have evolved from hapless bands of lightly armed men into formidable fighting groups, shifting the balance against Assad's military. This progress has been marked in recent weeks, with rebels storming military bases and claiming to shoot down government aircraft with newly captured missiles. The government has continued to strike rebel areas, and activists accused it last week of blacking out Syria's Internet for two days.

As the rebels racked up successes, their leadership in exile reorganized under pressure from the West and was recently recognized as Syria's sole legitimate representative by France, Britain and several Arab states. U.S. officials say the Obama administration is moving to do the same.

However, this new leadership body has little traction with the rebels inside Syria, many of whom have evolved during 20 months of conflict from civilian protesters into hardline, Islamist fighters. The shift among rebel groups toward a more militant Islam will likely alienate them from other Syrians and from Western nations that could pro-



In this Saturday, Nov. 17, 2012 file photo, a Syrian fighter fires his weapon during clashes with army forces on the outskirts of Idlib, Syria. Through mid-2012, rebel power grew and Assad's army ramped up its response. Relentless government shelling leveled neighborhoods and killed hundreds. Regular reports emerged of mass killings by the regime or thugs loyal to it, pushing more Syrians toward armed struggle. The government, which considers the opposition terrorist gangs backed by foreign powers, denied any role, and does not respond to requests for comment on its military. The rebels, too, were accused of atrocities.

vide badly needed military aid.

The transformation of The Beloved of Allah, now 150 men strong, was documented in hours of interviews and days spent with the group in June and November 2012, plus dozens of videos shot by its members.

"Our only allegiance is to Allah," Filfileh told his fighters before they attacked the base. "Victory or martyrdom, God willing."

The Beloved of Allah began with ten men, five rifles, one rickety machine gun and a few rocket-propelled grenades soon discovered to be duds. It was born in Maaret Misreen, a town where tractors and motorcycles outnumber cars in Idlib province, a center of rebel activity along Syria's northern border with Turkey.

The town first protested in April 2011, one month after the uprising began in the southern city of Daraa. Filfileh, well-liked by the young men who hung around his sweet shop, helped organize.

Filfileh, then 33, wasn't overly religious, sporting a trim beard and often missing some of the five daily Muslim prayers, his brother Mohammed said. He never cared for politics, but joined the uprising to fight a hereditary regime he felt had done little for poor Sunni Muslims like him.

Syria's Sunni majority forms the backbone of the opposition while Assad's regime is dominated by minority Alawites—an

offshoot of Shiite Islam.

Through 2011, that regime resorted to increasingly brutal tactics to crush the spreading dissent. By December, Filfileh decided that protesters needed arms, a conclusion reached by many across Syria, starting what would become the Free Syrian Army.

His men pooled their cash to buy guns. They traded a rifle for a van stolen from a security officer, painted it black and adorned the back window with the Muslim declaration of faith, the shehada, a central tenet of the religion that the devout recite in prayer and before traveling, sleep and death: "There is no God but Allah and Mohammed is his prophet."

The hood bore their new name: The Beloved of Allah Brigade. The name was inspired by a protest chant about martyrs killed fighting the enemy.

Their first operation was to blow up the house of a Muslim sheik who was arming local residents to fight the opposition. It failed, sparking a two-day clash in December 2011 that killed six people, including Filfileh's brother Ahmed.

"After the battle with the sheik, the whole town rose up and gave up on peaceful means," said Mohammed Tallal, an early member. "It was as if the protesters were tricking themselves."

Young men flocked to the group, leaving their old lives behind. Mohammed Akram, 24, abandoned the suits he wore as

an accountant at a brick factory. Abdullah Qadi, 25, dropped his dream to be a professor of veterinary medicine. Abdullah Biram, 23, quit his university business degree. His mother, a teacher, bought him a rifle.

The group's oldest fighter, Mohammed Ibrahim, 41, nursed a grievance. When he was a boy, security forces broke into his home to arrest his father, whom they suspected of belonging to the banned Muslim Brotherhood.

"I woke up, saw them and wet myself," he said. "Since then, I've hated the state."

They started small. "At first we couldn't attack checkpoints, so we did what God gave us the power to do," Tallal said.

They ambushed security officers to steal their cars, sometimes kidnapping them until they promised to leave the regime. Filfileh learned to drive, rushing wounded people to the Turkish border in his black van and ferrying back guns when he could find them. He rarely visited his wife and five children, but argued with his brother Mohammed when he tried to join the group, Mohammed said. Filfileh felt one of them had to stay alive to support the family.

The Beloved of Allah remained weak.

By June, they were hiding from the army in an unfinished, one-room farmhouse. One wall displayed seven of the group's dead, their faces imposed over a photo of the Grand Mosque of Mecca.

Most days, they'd sleep in, then while away the afternoon drinking tea, smoking and complaining about their lack of ammunition. On hot days, they'd don shorts and swim in the farm's irrigation tank.

They had little idea how to get better arms or challenge Assad's tanks.

Through mid-2012, rebel power grew and Assad's army ramped up its response.

Relentless government shelling leveled neighborhoods and killed hundreds. Regular reports emerged of mass killings by the regime or thugs loyal to it, pushing more Syrians toward armed struggle. The government, which often calls the opposition terrorist gangs backed by foreign powers, denied any role, and does not respond to requests for comment on its military. The rebels, too, were accused of atrocities.

Fueling the rebel advances were breakthroughs in arms and organization. Rebels seized a large swath of territory along the Turkish border, and different brigades and groups came together to carry out bigger attacks and solicit funding.

The Beloved of Allah rode this current. In August, Filfileh coordinated with other rebel groups to attack an army convoy heading to the Bab al-Hawa border crossing with Turkey, hauling off machine guns, rifles, rocket-propelled grenades and more ammunition than they'd ever had. He also associated his

group with the Farouq Brigades of Aleppo, an umbrella group.

Farouq bought regular supplies of ammunition from arms dealers in Turkey and Iraq with aid from abroad. In return, the Beloved filmed its victories against the regime and claimed them for Farouq to solicit further aid.

All the while, the war was growing more sectarian, with the Sunni Muslims who led the revolt becoming increasingly dominated by Islamists. Extremist groups also waded in, terrifying Syria's Christians, Alawites, Shiites and other minorities.

As the war dragged on and the rebels lost more friends and family members, Filfileh and his men, all Sunnis, increasingly sought motivation and solace in the only ideology with any traction in their patch of rural Syria: Islam. Filfileh grew out his beard, spiced his speech with increasingly religious rhetoric and wore black, Afghan-style outfits, adopting the image of a fighter in jihad, or holy war.

In September, The Beloved coordinated with a half dozen other groups to besiege the 46th Regiment of the Syrian army, near Aleppo. The group had never worked so closely with so many other fighters or tried to take a major military base. They hoped its fall would provide them with valuable booty.

After one failed raid, they realized they didn't have the firepower to take the base. So they divvied up the territory, cut the supply lines and braced for a long wait.

The Beloved of Allah held a section near a gated community of luxury villas they assumed belonged to rich businessmen and government officials. They settled into a stately, white villa with a columned entryway, a grassy, tree-lined yard and a swimming pool half full of green water and trash.

"The first time I walked into this villa, I saw that four of its doors were worth more than my entire house," said Qadi, the veterinarian.

The place had three stories, but the fighters stayed on the ground floor, hoping the house wouldn't totally collapse if the government bombed it. The army shelled the area regularly and most of the house's windows were blown out. But the ground floor had a fireplace to keep it warm and a foosball table to fill idle days.

Militarily, the group had advanced much. Instead of wasting ammunition in frequent clashes, they put snipers in the villas overlooking the base to

See REBEL on Next Page

Overdrive

Chevrolet Malibu an appealing midsize car

By MARK PHELAN
DETROIT FREE PRESS

Forget the Snake. I don't care what your menu said at the Chinese restaurant: 2013 is the Year of the Midsize Sedan, thanks to four strong new players in the popular segment.

A 2013 Chevrolet Malibu LTZ with the 2.5-liter base engine is the latest to land in my driveway. It features a capable European-engineered chassis, good power, an appealing look and feel and advanced features. The Malibu's fuel economy trails its best competitors, however, and the car I tested had a slightly misaligned trunk lid. The optional electronic lane-departure alert also went off so often that I turned it off early in a long test drive that included a round trip from Detroit to New Orleans.

Despite that, the Malibu is an appealing alternative to the Ford Fusion, Honda Accord and Nissan Altima, all of which are new for 2013.

The midsize sedan market, traditionally a stew of tepid family cars, is suddenly as hot as a Szechuan pepper. The Hyundai Sonata, shockingly new when it debuted as a 2011 model, is suddenly the oldest midsize on the market. Other one- and two-year-olds that may suddenly seem dated are the Kia Optima, Toyota Camry and Volkswagen Passat.

Prices for the 2013 Chevrolet Malibu start at \$22,930 for a car with the 191-horsepower 2.5-liter, four-cylinder engine. All Malibus have a six-speed automatic transmission. The Malibu Eco, which uses electricity to boost fuel economy, starts at \$25,335. The performance model boasts a turbo-



MCT

The Chevrolet Malibu, once known for its excitable little V-8 engines, now offers only four-cylinder engines in its 2013 models.

charged 259-horsepower, 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine. Prices begin at \$26,950.

I tested a very well-equipped Malibu LTZ with the 2.5-liter engine. Its features included a good voice-recognition system, two-tone leather seats, Pioneer audio and collision alert. It stickered at \$31,600. All prices exclude destination charges.

The car's price fell roughly in the middle among well-equipped midsize family sedans.

The 2013 Malibu is 0.3 inches shorter than the '12

NUTS & BOLTS

Type of vehicle: Front-wheel drive, five-passenger midsize sedan

Rating: Three out of four stars

Reasons to buy: Features, handling, power; looks

Shortcomings: Misaligned trunk lid; fuel economy; tuning of lane-departure alert

Base price: \$27,830

Price as tested: \$31,600

All prices exclude destination charge

model, but 2.7 inches wider. The result is more passenger and luggage space.

The car was comfortable for long drives—including a marathon stretch as I tried to

get through Tennessee, Kentucky and Ohio ahead of Superstorm Sandy. There's plenty of room in the front seat, and extravagant interior storage that includes a bin hidden behind the touch screen in the dashboard and a big drawer by the driver's left knee. Rear leg, shoulder and headroom are fine.

The attractive interior materials are cushioned at all the touch points.

The controls combine excel-

lent voice recognition with a touch screen and traditional dials and switches on the center stack and steering wheel. The gauges are big and readable. There's very little wind noise, but the sound of rough road surfaces can be intrusive.

The voice-recognition is fast and accurate, requiring a minimum of commands and getting things right the first time.

I was pleasantly surprised when navigation commands from my iPhone's new Apple Maps feature piped through the audio system and interrupted music streaming from the phone.

The directions were wrong,

of course. I'd still be roaming around Ohio if I listened to the notoriously faulty Apple Maps, but that's Apple's fault, not the Malibu's. Chevy says any phone with Bluetooth streaming and a navigation app with spoken directions works with MyLink.

The Malibu uses a platform developed with engineers at GM's European Opel brand. Its ride and handling benefit from that collaboration. The car is smooth and composed in fast driving. The steering is responsive, with good on-center feel and feedback.

The 2.5-liter engine's 191 horsepower and 197 pound-feet of torque easily top the competitors' similar-sized engines. The Malibu accelerated well, its transmission shifting fast and smoothly to get up to speed. The engine is a bit noisy during hard acceleration.

The 2.5-liter Malibu's EPA fuel-economy rating of 22 mpg in the city, 34 on the highway and 26 in combined driving is unimpressive. Comparably powered models of the Altima, Accord, Camry, Optima and Sonata all beat it.

The Malibu's styling is dynamic but understated. The car has a forward-leaning stance and wide track. Four square taillights and rear fender flares consciously echo the Camaro sport coupe. Subtle lines stamped into the hood and trunk lid add visual appeal. The trunk lid of the car I tested was slightly misaligned. Aside from that, all the Malibus I've driven had good fit and finish.

The 2013 Chevrolet Malibu's features, looks, comfort and performance make it a strong contender as we roll into the Year of the Midsize Sedan.

REBEL

From Page 18

cover more ground with fewer bullets.

"If you can't destroy a car or shoot a soldier and kill him, don't fire," Filfileh said.

One afternoon, the scraping sound of a fighter jet filled the villa. Fighters rushed in, fearing an airstrike.

"To the trucks!" Filfileh yelled.

Within minutes, trucks with anti-aircraft guns blasted at the jet. It dove and struck nearby, sending up a huge cloud of gray smoke.

The rebels downed two jets and sent another away smoking, Qadi said. He had a video of a flaming L-39 training jet falling from the sky, and another of rebels chanting over its wreckage. The videos and claims could not be independently verified.

As the siege drew on, scores of soldiers defected from the base, reporting that morale inside was low and food was short, Qadi said. The helicopters dropped packages of bread. Sometimes, the bread fell to the rebels.

■■■

When the attack on the base finally came, Filfileh called his men together.

Many had long hair and scruffy beards and laughed at how different they looked from their clean-cut selves in old ID photos. They wore camouflage uniforms and black headbands with "There is no God but Allah" embroidered on their foreheads.

Filfileh told them to look out for each other, to fight to the death and to take no prisoners. He said they were fighting for everyone who had been killed or wounded during the uprising. But he framed the fight in stark

religious, not political, terms.

"We are heading out for the same goal, all of us," he said, stroking the black beard that now reached his chest. "We are not heading out to topple the regime. We are heading out to raise the banner 'There is no God but Allah.'"

"If anyone is martyred, it is because God chose him," he said. "He only takes those whom He selects, the beloved of Allah."

Amid chants of "God is great!" they headed for the base. They stormed their assigned barracks and caught two government soldiers. They were questioned and "eliminated," said Akram, the former accountant.

By dawn, the rebels were clashing with soldiers in another barracks further in. Filfileh and 10 others came under fire and took cover behind a dirt mound.

They lay on their chests, shooting at soldiers so close they could shout to them.

And shout they did. "Hey you dogs! Come have a cigarette!" Akram yelled, making his colleagues laugh. "Let me take you for a ride in my pickup!"

The base was falling, and the mood was buoyant. Just then, Filfileh told Akram to get him a rocket-propelled grenade.

When Akram returned, Filfileh was lying face up in the dirt, blood rushing from his forehead.

"Cover! We need cover!" Akram screamed into a walkie talkie. "Filfileh is wounded!"

The fighters carried Filfileh to a van, which raced to the Turkish border. Filfileh lay still on the floor, eyes open, with blood pooling under his head as fighters yelled his name.

At one point, he lifted his index finger in a sign of oath and

mouthed the shehada: "There is no God but Allah and Mohammed is his prophet."

"He became a martyr next to me!" a fighter wailed. "Filfileh became a martyr!"

That night, the base fell.

■■■

The next night, the Beloved of Allah collected at the old farmhouse where they once hid from the army. The place had changed little, other than the new martyr photos on the wall.

The rebels had lost about 10 men in the battle, and Filfileh was badly wounded. But some 500 rebel fighters had routed the government soldiers, taken about 50 prisoners and made off with more booty than any could recall seeing in north Syria, including tanks, rocket launchers, armored vehicles, artillery guns and truckloads of munitions.

The survivors laughed when asked about their past

or future lives.

"I try to ask myself where I'll be after the revolution and I can't imagine myself anywhere but in the grave," said Qadi, the veterinarian, who had planned to become a university professor before the uprising. "I've forgotten everything that came before."

Tallal invoked religion.

"If God permits, we could reach the presidential palace or we could all be martyred in the same battle," he said. "We depend only on Allah."

Filfileh was rushed to a hospital in Turkey, where surgeons stopped the bleeding from the bullet that had blown through his skull. Now he is conscious, can speak and says he will return to fight in Syria.

His doctor says he'll be released on Monday. Only time will tell if he'll walk without a cane.

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Rise of the Guardians 3D

Friday		7:30	9:45
Saturday	1:30	7:30	9:45
Sunday	1:30	7:30	
Monday thru Thursday		7:30	

Cast: Chris Pine, Hugh Jackman, Alec Baldwin
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG

Synopsis

A group of mythical fairy-tale characters team up to save the world in this DreamWorks Animation production. Based on William Joyce's series of children's books, the pic features the voice acting talents of Chris Pine, Hugh Jackman, Alec Baldwin, Jude Law, and Isla Fisher. Peter Ramsey co-directs with Joyce.



Life of Pi 3D

Friday		7:05	9:50
Saturday	1:05	7:05	9:50
Sunday	1:05	7:05	
Monday thru Thursday		7:05	

Cast: Suraj Sharma, Irfan Khan, Tabu, Rafe Spall
Genre: Drama, Adventure • Rated PG



Red Dawn

Friday	4:25	7:25	9:35
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Monday thru Thursday	4:25	7:25	

Chris Hemsworth, Josh Peck, Josh Hutcherson
Genre: Action • Rated PG13



Life of Pi 2D

Friday	4:05		
Saturday	4:05		
Sunday	4:05		
Monday thru Thursday	4:05		

Cast: Suraj Sharma, Irfan Khan, Tabu, Rafe Spall
Genre: Drama, Adventure • Rated PG



Rise of the Guardians 2D

Friday	4:30		
Saturday	4:30		
Sunday	4:30		
Monday thru Thursday	4:30		

Cast: Chris Pine, Hugh Jackman, Alec Baldwin
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG



Twilight: Breaking Dawn Part 2

Friday	4:00	7:00	9:30
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Monday thru Thursday	4:00	7:00	

Cast: Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, Taylor Lautner
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG13



Flight

Friday	4:10	7:10	9:55
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Monday thru Thursday	4:10	7:10	

Cast: Denzel Washington, Don Cheadle, Kelly Reilly
Genre: Drama • Rated R



Skyfall

Friday	4:15	7:15	10:00
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Monday thru Thursday	4:15	7:15	

Cast: Daniel Craig, Judi Dench, Javier Bardem
Genre: Spy film, Action • Rated PG13



Wreck-It Ralph 2D

Friday	4:20	7:20	9:40
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Monday thru Thursday	4:20	7:20	

Cast: John C. Reilly, Sarah Silverman
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG

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Life & Style

'Twilight,' 'Skyfall' remain top picks for fans

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The "Twilight" finale and "Skyfall" continued to dominate the box office on a typically slow post-Thanksgiving weekend that brought big business for holdover films but a poor start for Brad Pitt's new crime story.

Sunday studio estimates put "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn—Part 2" out front for the third-straight weekend with \$17.4 million domestically.

That raised the domestic total to \$254.6 million for the vampire tale released by Lionsgate banner Summit Entertainment. The movie added \$48.4 million overseas for an international haul of \$447.8 million and a worldwide sum of \$702.4 million, approaching the franchise record of \$710 million for last year's "Breaking Dawn—Part 2."

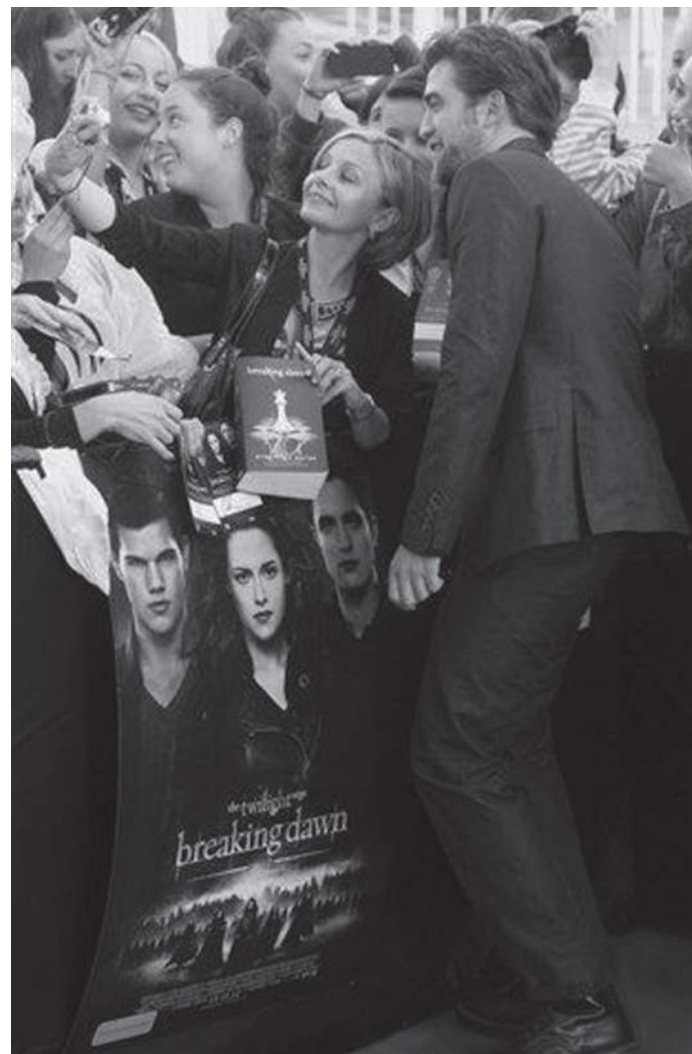
Sony's James Bond adventure "Skyfall" was a fraction behind with \$17 million domestically, raising revenue to \$246 million

after four weekends.

"Skyfall" also brought in \$34 million overseas to put its international take at \$623 million and the worldwide total at \$869 million, the best cash haul ever for a Bond flick.

Pitt's "Killing Them Softly," the weekend's top new release, tanked with just \$7 million domestically, coming in at No. 7 behind a big batch of holdovers.

The "Twilight" finale and "Skyfall" were close enough that domestic rankings could flip-flop when final numbers are released Monday. Either way, the two movies have led a brisk start to the holiday season that



AP
This Oct. 22, 2012 file photo shows British actor Robert Pattinson, right, having his photo taken with fans upon arrival for an exclusive fan event for the final chapter of the Twilight Saga "Breaking Dawn Part 2" in Sydney, Australia.

1. "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn—Part 2," \$17.4 million (\$48.4 million international)
2. "Skyfall," \$17 million (\$34 million international).
3. "Lincoln," \$13.51 million.
4. "Rise of the Guardians," \$13.5 million (\$40 million international).
5. "Life of Pi," \$12 million (\$21.5 million international).
6. "Wreck-It Ralph," \$7.02 million (\$1.5 million international).
7. "Killing Them Softly," \$7 million (\$700,000 international).
8. "Red Dawn," \$6.6 million (\$500,000 international).
9. "Flight," \$4.5 million.
10. "The Collection," \$3.4 million.

Estimated weekend ticket sales at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada) for films distributed overseas by Hollywood studios, according to Rentrak:

1. "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn—Part 2," \$48.4 million.
2. "Rise of the Guardians," \$40 million.
3. "Skyfall," \$34 million.
4. "Life of Pi," \$21.5 million.
5. "26 Years," \$5.2 million.
6. "Argo," \$4.1 million.
7. "Hotel Transylvania," \$3.5 million.
8. "Wreck-It Ralph," \$1.5 million.
9. "Silver Linings Playbook," \$1.3 million.
10. "Killing Them Softly," \$700,000.
10. "Red Dawn," \$500,000.

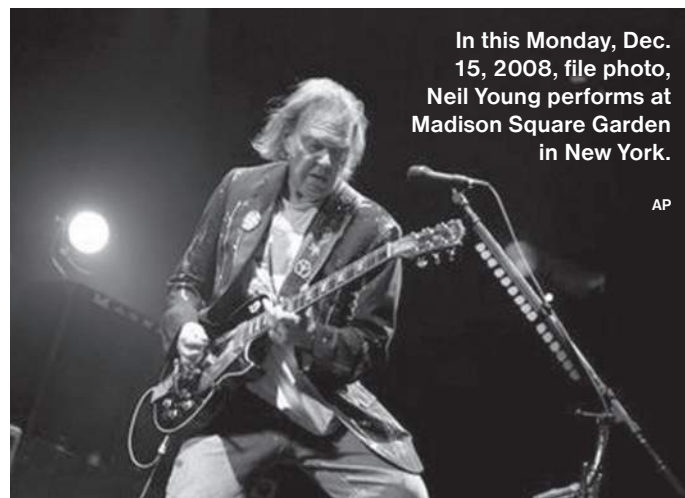
Young down by boardwalk for benefit show

NEWYORK (AP)—Neil Young said Sunday that he couldn't see performing in the area devastated by Superstorm Sandy without doing something to help people who were affected by it.

Young and his longtime backing band, Crazy Horse, will hold a benefit concert for the American Red Cross' storm relief effort Thursday at the Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa in Atlantic City. The New Jersey coastline areas were hit hard by the storm in late October.

People in the New York area who suffered damage in the storm have been supporting him for 40 years, he said.

"I couldn't see coming back here and just playing and have it be business as usual," he said. Young is touring in the area, with concerts scheduled for Monday in Brooklyn and Tues-



AP
In this Monday, Dec. 15, 2008, file photo, Neil Young performs at Madison Square Garden in New York.

day in Bridgeport, Conn.

Minimum ticket prices for the standing-room show in Atlantic City will be \$75 and \$150, although Young notes there's no maximum. He hopes to raise several hundred thousand dollars for the Red Cross.

Young said he was invited to join the Dec. 12 benefit at New York's Madison Square Garden that will feature Bruce Springsteen, Paul McCartney, the Who, Kanye West and others, but had other obligations. Besides, there's enough star power

there, he said.

"It wasn't going to make much difference whether I was there or not, so I decided to go someplace where I could make a difference," he said.

Young performed at a televised benefit in 2001 following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, memorably covering John Lennon's "Imagine."

Fans can expect a two-hour plus rock show on Thursday with opening band Everest. No special guests are planned, although Young issued an invitation to "anyone who wants to come in and play with us that we know and we know can play."

It's hard to resist wondering whether Young's epic "Like a Hurricane" will make it onto the set list, given the occasion.

"Anything's possible," Young said. "We have the equipment."

Letterman, Hoffman, Zeppelin honored by Obama

WASHINGTON (AP)—David Letterman's "stupid human tricks" and Top 10 lists vaulted into the ranks of cultural acclaim Sunday night as the late-night comedian received this year's Kennedy Center Honors with rock band Led Zeppelin, an actor, a ballerina and a bluesman.

Stars from New York, Hollywood and the music world joined President Barack Obama at the White House on Sunday night to salute the honorees, whose ranks also include actor Dustin Hoffman, Chicago bluesman Buddy Guy and ballerina Natalia Makarova.

The honors are the nation's highest award for those who influenced American culture through the arts. The recipients were later saluted by fellow performers at the Kennedy Center Opera House in a show to be broadcast Dec. 26 on CBS.

Obama drew laughs from his guests when he described the honorees as "some extraordinary people who have no business being on the same stage together."

Noting that Guy made his first guitar strings using the wire from a window screen, he quipped, "That worked until his parents started wondering how all the mosquitoes were getting in."

The president thanked the members of Led Zeppelin for behaving themselves at the White House given their history of "hotel rooms trashed and mayhem all around."

Obama noted Letterman's humble beginnings as an Indianapolis weatherman who once reported the city was being pelted by hail the size of canned hams.

"It's one of the highlights of



AP
President Barack Obama, right, and first lady Michelle Obama, second from right, with the 2012 Kennedy Center Honors recipients, ballerina Natalia Makarova, left, and actor and director Dustin Hoffman, stand as the National Anthem is played during the Kennedy Center Honors Gala at the Kennedy Center in Washington, Sunday, Dec. 2, 2012.

his career," he said.

All kidding aside, Obama described all of the honorees as artists who "inspired us to see things in a new way, to hear things differently, to discover something within us or to appreciate how much beauty there is in the world."

"It's that unique power that makes the arts so important," he added.

Later on the red carpet, Letterman said he was thrilled by the recognition and to visit Obama at the White House.

"It supersedes everything, honestly," he said. "I haven't won that many awards."

During the show, comedian Tina Fey said she grew up watching her mom laugh at Letterman as he brought on "an

endless parade of weirdos."

"Who was this Dave Letterman guy?" Fey said. "Was he a brilliant, subtle passive-aggressive parody of a talk show host? Or just some Midwestern goon who was a little bit off? Time has proven that there's just really no way of knowing."

Alec Baldwin offered a Top 10 reasons Letterman was winning the award, including the fact that he didn't leave late night for a six-month stint in primetime—a not-so-subtle dig at rival Jay Leno.

Jimmy Kimmel, who will soon compete head-to-head with Letterman on ABC, said he fell in love with Letterman early in life and even had a "Late Night" cake on his 16th birthday.

"To me it wasn't just a TV

show," Kimmel said. "It was the reason I would fail to make love to a live woman for many, many years."

For Buddy Guy, singers Bonnie Raitt, Tracy Chapman and others got most of the crowd on its feet singing Guy's signature "Sweet Home Chicago."

Morgan Freeman hailed Guy as a pioneer who helped bridge soul and rock and roll.

"When you hear the blues, you really don't think of it as black or white or yellow or purple or blue," Freeman said. "Buddy Guy, your blue brought us together."

Robert De Niro saluted Hoffman, saying he had changed acting, never took any shortcuts and was brave enough to be a perfectionist.

Napoleon's coded Kremlin letter sold for \$243,500

FONTAINEBLEAU, France (AP)—A secret code letter sent by French emperor Napoleon boasting that his multinational forces would blow up Moscow's Kremlin has sold at auction Sunday for (EURO)187,500 (\$243,500) - 10 times its estimated presale price.

A Paris museum, the Museum of Letters and Manuscripts, was finalizing its purchase of the Oct. 20, 1812, document with elegantly calligraphic ciphers.

The sale price, which includes fees, far outstripped the pre-sale estimate of (EURO)15,000 (\$19,500), according to Fontainebleau Auction House south of Paris.

Experts say the letter is unique, written in a numeric code that Napoleon often used to throw off would-be interceptors—notably when he was conveying battle plans. The letter's content also revealed the strains on Napoleon of his calamitous Russian invasion.

"At three o'clock in the morning, on the 22nd I am going to blow up the Kremlin," the letter said, laying out his route of retreat and urging his minions to send rations to the towns to the

west. "My cavalry is in tatters, many horses are dying."

Napoleon's prolific correspondence has drawn aficionados from around the world in places like the U.S., Britain, Japan and Russia. Interest appears to be rising as museums like the Museum of Letters and Manuscripts prepare to mark the bicentennial of Napoleon's final defeat at Waterloo in 1815.

The Kremlin letter was but one piece in the vast auction Sunday. A 310-page manuscript for the "Essay on countryside fortification," which Napoleon wrote while exiled on the remote island of Saint Helena in 1818-1919, was also bought by the Paris museum—for (EURO)375,000 (\$487,000), including fees.

Gerard Lheritier, director of the Paris museum, said it already has at least 1,500 letters, manuscripts or other writings linked to Napoleon Bonaparte. It recently acquired one from Japan that Napoleon had written to the Empress Josephine; it fetched (EURO)600,000 (EURO)700,000, he said.

"We have many letters that are much more important" than



AP
In this photo taken Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2012, auction house associate Jean-Christophe Chataigniera holds up a letter dictated and signed by Napoleon in secret code that declares his intentions "to blow up the Kremlin" during his ill-fated Russian campaign is displayed in Fontainebleau, outside Paris.

the Kremlin one, Lheritier said by phone. He was unfazed that the price was far above the pre-sale estimate, and speculated that the letter could have fetched (EURO)250,000 (\$325,000). "This is a nice letter because it's in code, and he's going to blow up the Kremlin—so it's appealing," he said.

Vladimir Hofmann, a French artist of Russian descent who with his brother Andre also bid

Sunday, said they'd wanted to purchase the letter for Russia's famed Hermitage museum.

"Why? You know, it's a question of perhaps nostalgia, perhaps patriotism, to return the thing—very important for Russia and for Russian people—to them," Vladimir Hofmann said.

Referring to such Russian interest in the letter, Lheritier said with a chuckle: "I prefer that it stays in France."

Troubled woman needs expert advice friends can't provide

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have a friend, "Cara," who lives in another state. It's not a very reciprocal friendship. Cara calls us frequently, but wants to talk only about her problems, which are never-ending. When she visits, she demands our full attention at all times. Frankly, we find her exhausting and would like to cut her out of our lives.

Our worry is that we are some of the few friends Cara has left. She has alienated most of her other friends as well as her parents, sometimes over trivial matters. We know she's depressed and has emotional issues, and we suspect she may have a mental illness. She has been suicidal in the past, but now refuses to see her therapist.

We're worried that if we don't continue serving as her talk therapy—which we find draining—Cara might become so depressed she'll hurt herself. How do we extricate ourselves from this relationship while still doing the right thing?

WORN-OUT BUT WORRIED IN CHICAGO

DEAR WORN-OUT: You and your wife are well-meaning, but neither of you is qualified to be Cara's therapist. Allowing her to monopolize your time and sap your energy may momentarily lessen her pain or anxiety, but it hasn't—and will not—give her the tools she needs to fix what's wrong.

You can extricate yourselves by encouraging her to talk to a mental health professional. It doesn't have to be the therapist she no longer wants to see, but it does need to be someone who has the training to help her. You should also shorten the length of the conversations. This is happening to you because you are allowing it.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are retired and enjoy going out for a nice dinner occasionally. We go to chain restaurants, hotel restaurants and local dinner establishments. We order lighter meals than we used to, and with the cost of dinners these days we have been finishing our entire meal.

Our problem is that again and again, our server makes a comment about our finished plates. It might be, "You were really hungry, I see!" or, "Wow! You really enjoyed that!" It is uncomfortable to hear these comments about our eating habits and it spoils our enjoyment.

This may be an attempt on their part to be friendly, but we don't like it. How do we let them know this is crossing the boundaries of professional behavior?

EMBARRASSED IN CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA.

DEAR EMBARRASSED: I hope you realize that for many people this would not be a problem. You needn't be confrontational—all you need to calmly say is, "When you say that, it makes me uncomfortable, so please don't do it again." No servers want to offend a guest, and they are not mind readers. However, they are all aware that their tips depend on how their service is regarded by customers—so I'm sure your comment will be taken to heart.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Is it possible for a man to be in love with two women at the same time?

NAME WITHHELD IN VIRGINIA

DEAR NAME WITHHELD: Yes, I think so—and it is usually for different reasons. The same holds true for women. However, for a lasting relationship, people have to choose the one partner who has more of the qualities they think are most important.

■■■

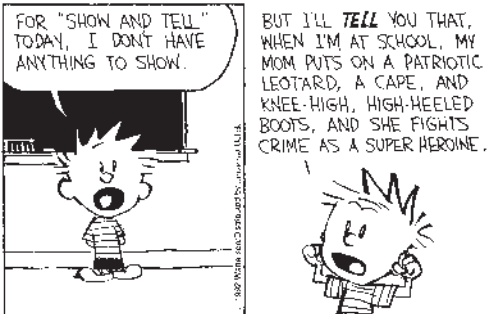
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Jail, aboard ship

5 Altar, affirmative

8 Mediocre

12 Ireland

13 Upper limit

14 One-liner, often

15 Strews about

17 Language of Pakistan

18 Light brown

19 Chapeau

20 Diamond corners

21 Gender

22 Humor

23 Range

26 Plant

30 October stone

31 Half a dozen

32 Sea eagle

33 Seeming contradiction

35 Magnificent

36 Ultra-formal wear

37 "Absolutely"

38 Malice

41 Sawbuck

42 Scalding

45 Speck

46 Breaks into smithereens

48 Addict

49 Listener

50 Neighborhood

51 Jewels

52 Reaction to a ques.

53 Indigent

DOWN

1 Tops

2 Costa

3 Persia, now

4 Obtain

5 Glacier climber's tool

6 Pub

7 Chances, for

8 Illegal

9 Yours and mine

10 Faction

11 Musical number

16 You

20 Pen name?

21 Spills everywhere

22 Candle material

23 Bribe

24 Book-keeper (Abbr.)

25 Rowing need

26 Repair

27 Raw mineral

28 Genetic inits.

29 Nevertheless

31 Boston Red —

34 Payable

35 Refined bloke

37 Century fractions

38 Overconfident

39 Sit for a picture

40 Thing

41 Comparison word

42 Medal earner

43 Sandwich cookie

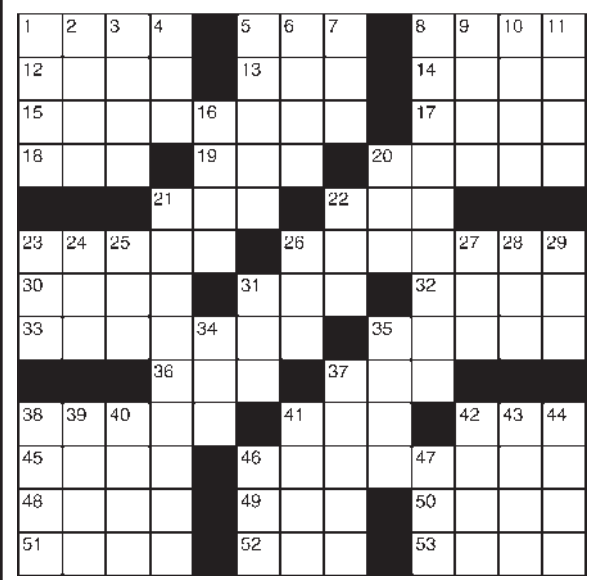
44 Despot

46 Red or Black

47 Spigot

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 12-4



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tyra Banks, 39; Jay-Z, 43; Marisa Tomei, 48; Jeff Bridges, 63.

Happy Birthday: You may feel like hiding out, but being a participant is your ticket to making a difference and getting one step closer to your dreams, hopes and wishes. An ostentatious approach will result in greater options with groups or supporters that can influence the outcome of the projects on your agenda this year. Embrace change. Your numbers are 9, 15, 22, 28, 31, 39, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Sort through your personal papers and see where you stand. The realization that you need to make financial alterations to ensure a brighter future will help you put stipulations on the way you have been handling both work and personal matters.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will make a mistake when dealing with a partnership. Don't give in to any demands or trust in what's being offered. To stay in control, you will have to set guidelines and rules with equality being necessary.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take care of preparations for upcoming festive events or to prepare your home or surroundings to better suit your plans for the year ahead. Ask questions if you need input from someone who will be influenced by the decisions you make.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Stick to what you do best. Choose a destination that will engage your mind with ideas that you can implement into your seasonal investments

or social plans. Share your creative thoughts and you'll get help initiating your plans.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Enjoy the company of an old friend or lover. Embrace the hobbies, people and pastimes you used to enjoy. Memories will help you get your life back in perspective and lead to the changes that will ease future stress.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): High energy coupled with excitement will help you spread your joy and please those around you. Planning a trip or talking about your plans for the festive season or the upcoming year will help you finalize a decision that must be made quickly.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A disappointment doesn't have to knock you off your feet. Instead of skipping a beat, reorganize and reschedule quickly. You will be able to follow through with your plans, and you will gain control over your current personal situation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Diplomacy will be your ticket to good results. Share information and look at alternatives offered. Keep emotional matters in the background and you will avoid a problem that could disrupt your business plans.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Good ideas will spring from conversations you have with a unique individual. Make sure you don't ruffle feathers when dealing with institutions or agencies that can influence what you need to complete before the end of the year.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Size up your situation and make your move. Counter an offer and make it clear you want to close any deal you are working on before you break for the end-of-year festivities. Trust in your ability and so will others.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Listen carefully. What's being said or offered may have underlying implications that will not suit your purpose or needs if you accept. Back away from any deal you feel uncertain about and rethink your strategy. Time is on your side.

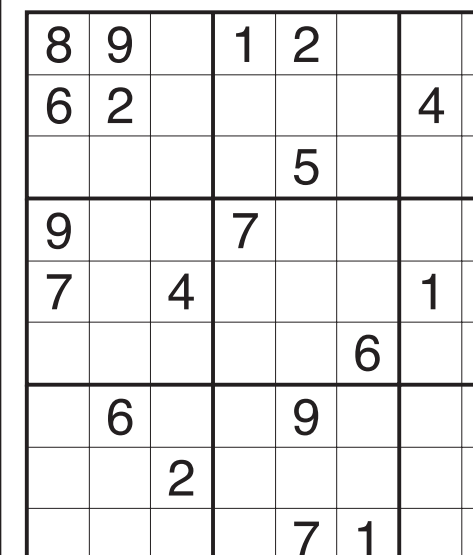
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Look beyond the obvious. You will recognize an opportunity to do something unique that can increase your financial future and satisfy your physical and emotional needs. Love and romance are highlighted along with contracts, settlements and legal matters.

Birthday Baby: You are a mediator and a relentless advocate. You are resilient and proficient.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

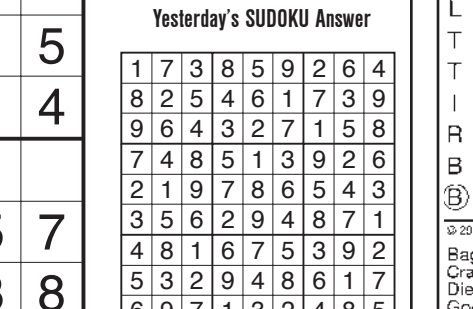
SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★ 12/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.



Difficulty Level ★ 12/05

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

COOKING WITH HARD BREAD Solution: 8 letters

B F C Y P P S B E M S N I H T
A R R E S T U P U S T E C C A
G E U L I B E D U T E S B N C
U S M S R R A E D O T E U U O
E H B R C P R K W I S E H R C
T S S A A H E D I S N D R C C
T U O P S U E D S N I G S R R
E G N I F F U T S E G N E O A
L A F A L N I T T R I A O L C
T R O O K S F I A M M I L K
T L U E K W A L R H G M O D E
I R D L H L G T O U G H I R
R E A W E T M A T Z O O L S
B E N D A Y S A U C E S O S
V F L A T B R E A D S N S D

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1 7 3 8 5 9 2 6 4
8 2 5 4 6 1 7 3 9
9 6 4 3 2 7 1 5 8
7 4 8 5 1 3 9 2 6
2 1 9 7 8 6 5 4 3
3 5 6 2 9 4 8 7 1
4 8 1 6 7 5 3 9 2
5 3 2 9 4 8 6 1 7
6 9 7 1 3 2 4 8 5

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Baguette, Baking, Bite, Brittle, Bruschetta, Butter, Cheese, Crackers, Cream, Crepe, Crisp, Crumbs, Crunch, Crust, Cubes, Diet, Dough, Dunked, Fish, Flatbreads, Flour, Fresh, Frozen, Good, Grains, Grilled, Loaf, Matzo, Milk, Papadum, Parsley, Pudding, Roll, Salty, Sauces, Side, Solid, Soups, Stick, Stuffing, Sugar, Sweet, Taco, Thin, Tough, Veal, Water, Wheat

Yesterday's Answer: Ikura

The WONDERWORD MILLIKIN series is a daily word puzzle. It is a 10x10 grid with 100 squares. The puzzle is created by David Ouellet. The puzzle is available in print and online. The puzzle is available in print and online. The puzzle is available in print and online.

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Interested applicants submit resume and police clearance at Apex Saipan Inc. office, across San Antonio Church, San Antonio Village. For application to be considered should be sent not later than Dec 5, 2012

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

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Supervisor of Mechanics Installer & Repairer-- \$5.55/hr
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Interested applicants submit resume and police clearance at D & W Saipan Inc. office , 2nd floor of Highway Express Building middle Road. For application to be considered should be sent not later than Dec 5, 2012

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Maintenance Supervisor- \$5.55/hr
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Romo sets TD mark as Cowboys beat Eagles



ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Tony Romo knows what matters the most when it comes to the Dallas Cowboys. So while it's nice to break Troy Aikman's franchise record for career touchdown passes, he's focused on getting his team to the playoffs.

Romo threw three second-half touchdown passes to answer a strong game by Philadelphia's rookie duo of Bryce Brown and Nick Foles, and the Cowboys sent the Eagles to their eighth straight loss with a 38-33 victory Sunday night.

The first two scoring tosses from Romo erased seven-point deficits, including a 23-yarder to Dez Bryant that was vintage Romo and broke Aikman's career mark of 165 TD passes. Romo scrambled to his right and threw back across the field to Bryant, who weaved through the Philadelphia defense to tie it at 17 in the third quarter.

Romo tied it again at 24 on a throw to Miles Austin, and had one more answer after Brown and Foles led the Eagles to a go-ahead field goal. He threw deep to Bryant for 35 yards on third down, and Bryant found his way into the end zone again by taking a screen pass 6 yards just inside the pylon for a 31-27 lead with 5:40 remaining in the game.

"It's about winning games," said Romo, who was 10 of 10 in the second half and completed his last 12 passes. "We desperately had to have this win tonight, and our team fought like heck to get a win."

The Eagles' slide continued despite 169 yards rushing and two touchdowns from Brown a week after he set a team rookie record with 178 yards on the ground.

After Romo's go-ahead touchdown pass, Dallas went up by 11 when Morris Claiborne returned a fumble by Brown 50 yards for a touchdown.

Broncos 31, Buccaneers 23

In Denver, Peyton Manning threw three touchdowns, including one to defensive tackle Mitch Unrein, to help Denver wrap up the AFC West.

The Broncos (9-3) won their seventh straight and the Tampa Bay (6-6) loss clinched the NFC South for Atlanta, which won on Thursday.

Manning threw for 242 yards. He now has 29 touchdown passes on the season, moving past Jake Plummer and John Elway for the most by a Denver quarterback in a single year.

Manning threw two of the scores to Demaryius Thomas, who finished with eight catches for 99 yards.

Broncos linebacker Von Miller returned an interception for his first NFL score.

The Broncos held Tampa running back Doug Martin to 56



Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo (9) celebrates with team mascot Rowdy after defeating the Philadelphia Eagles, 38-33, in an NFL football game Sunday, Dec. 2, 2012 in Arlington, Texas.

yards on 18 carries.

Chiefs 27, Panthers 21

In Kansas City, against the backdrop of an unthinkable tragedy, the Kansas City Chiefs gave themselves a reason to be proud Sunday—and perhaps the impetus to let the healing begin.

Brady Quinn threw for 201 yards and two touchdowns, and Jamaal Charles ran for 127 yards in the Chiefs' 27-21 victory over their Carolina Panthers. The win snapped an eight-game losing streak during one of the most difficult seasons the franchise has ever experienced.

The win came just one day after Chiefs linebacker Jovan Belcher shot his girlfriend multiple times at a residence near Arrowhead Stadium, then drove to the team's practice facility and turned the gun on himself as general manager Scott Pioli and coach Romeo Crennel looked on.

Patriots 23, Dolphins 16

In Miami, Tom Brady had his least efficient game of the year and even threw an interception, but New England took advantage of Miami's mistakes and clinched their fourth consecutive AFC East title.

A botched punt, roughing-the-punter penalty and fumble by Miami led to 17 New England points, and another penalty negated a Dolphins touchdown.

Brady finished 24 for 40 for 238 yards and was sacked four times. But with the Patriots nursing a 20-13 lead midway

through the fourth quarter, he led a 16-play drive that took more than seven minutes and led to a field goal.

Texans 24, Titans 10

In Nashville, the Houston Texans clinched their second straight playoff berth and set a franchise record for wins in a season.

Rookie linebacker Whitney Mercilus recovered a fumble and had two sacks, and the Texans (11-1) remain tied with Atlanta for the best record in the NFL with their sixth straight win. After needing overtime the past two games, the Texans forced six turnovers and had six sacks of Jake Locker when they weren't batting down a handful of other passes.

Rams 16, 49ers 13, OT

In St. Louis, rookie Greg Zuerlein kicked a 54-yard field goal with 26 seconds left in overtime after booting a 53-yarder as time expired in regulation.

The winning kick allowed the Rams to avoid a second tie in three weeks against the NFC West leaders.

The Rams (5-6-1) scored twice in the final 3:04 of regulation, getting their lone touchdown when rookie Janoris Jenkins returned an errant pitchout by Colin Kaepernick 2 yards for a score. They've won two straight after an 0-4-1 skid.

Seahawks 23, Bears 17, OT

In Chicago, Russell Wilson

connected with Sidney Rice on a 13-yard touchdown with 7:33 left in overtime to lift Seattle.

Unbeaten in five home games, the Seahawks finally figured a way to win on the road after dropping five of their first six, and knocked off the NFC North leaders in the process.

Seattle took a short-lived lead late in regulation on Wilson's 14-yard pass to Golden Tate, only to watch the Bears' Robbie Gould boot a 46-yard field goal as time expired to send it into OT.

Colts 35, Lions 33

In Detroit, Andrew Luck threw a 14-yard touchdown pass to Donnie Avery with no time left to lift Indianapolis.

With the final seconds ticking away, the rookie quarterback moved up in the pocket, flipped a short pass to Avery, and the receiver ran untouched into the end zone to complete a rally that started with Lions up 12 points midway through the fourth quarter.

The Colts (8-4) stayed in control of the AFC wild-card race with the win. Detroit (4-8) lost for the fourth straight time, including three in a row at home after leading in the final quarter.

Packers 23, Vikings 14

In Green Bay, James Starks had Green Bay's first rushing touchdown in almost two months, Morgan Burnett picked off Christian Ponder twice and the Packers overcame a monster day by Adrian Peterson.

Peterson finished with 210 yards, the most he's had since blowing out his ACL and MCL last December. But the Vikings (6-6) clearly felt the absence of Percy Harvin, who missed his third straight game with a sprained ankle.

Ponder didn't help matters with his interceptions, one in the end zone and the other around the Green Bay 10. The Packers turned both miscues into field goals, giving them their 10th straight victory against an NFC North opponent.

Steelers 23, Ravens 20

In Baltimore, Shaun Suisham kicked a 42-yard field goal as time expired.

Playing without injured quarterback Ben Roethlisberger for a third straight week, the Steelers turned to the 37-year-old Batch for the second game in a row. He went 25 for 36 for 276 yards, threw a touchdown and moved the Steelers 61 yards before Suisham's game-winning kick.

Pittsburgh trailed 13-3 in the first half and 20-13 in the fourth quarter before coming back.

Pittsburgh (7-5) snapped a two-game losing streak and kept alive its slim hopes of overtaking Baltimore (9-3) in the AFC North. The teams have split their games this season.

Bengals 20, Chargers 13

In San Diego, Andy Dalton scrambled up the middle for a 6-yard touchdown with 4:11 left for the go-ahead score

and Cincinnati won its fourth straight game.

On second-and-goal, Dalton pump-faked right and then ran up the middle, dived for the end zone and got the ball across.

The Bengals (7-5) remained tied with Pittsburgh in the race for the AFC's second wild-card berth.

The Chargers (4-8) lost their fourth straight game and for the seventh time in eight games, and remain only mathematically alive in the wild-card chase. Denver won the AFC West with a 31-23 victory against Tampa Bay.

Browns 20, Raiders 17

In Oakland, Brandon Weeden threw for a career-high 364 yards and a touchdown as Cleveland snapped a 12-game road losing streak.

Weeden hit fellow rookie Josh Gordon on a 44-yard score in the second quarter and Trent Richardson scored on a 3-yard run after Sheldon Brown made a key interception deep in Cleveland territory when the Raiders (3-9) were driving for the potential tying or go-ahead score in the fourth quarter.

It all added up to the first road win for the Browns (4-8) since beating Indianapolis 27-19 on Sept. 18, 2011.

Jets 7, Cardinals 6

In East Rutherford, third-stringer Greg McElroy stepped in for a struggling Mark Sanchez and led New York to its only score.

With Tim Tebow inactive as he heals from two broken ribs, coach Rex Ryan pulled Sanchez for McElroy - as the crowd at MetLife Stadium cheered wildly - late in the third quarter. McElroy led the (5-7) Jets to their only points of the day with an impressive drive, connecting with Jeff Cumberland on a 1-yard touchdown. That ended up being the winning score.

Fans chanted "Mc-Elroy!" throughout the first three quarters as Sanchez went 10 for 21 for 97 yards and three interceptions.

The sagging Cardinals (4-8) have their own troubles at quarterback. Ryan Lindley was ineffective in his second NFL start as Arizona lost its eighth straight game after a 4-0 start.

Bills 34, Jaguars 18

In Orchard Park, Ryan Fitzpatrick directed five straight scoring drives in helping Buffalo keep alive its slim playoff hopes.

Fitzpatrick threw two touchdown passes and scored on a 1-yard plunge in providing a spark to an injury-depleted offense that finished the game minus its top two receivers.

Fred Jackson had 101 yards rushing and C.J. Spiller scored on a 44-yard run that put Buffalo (5-7) up 34-10 early in the fourth quarter.

The Jaguars fell to 2-10.

Orlando beats Howard's Lakers in reunion



LOS ANGELES (AP) —Dwight Howard wasn't his usually playful self in the Los Angeles Lakers' locker room. He refused to answer certain questions and shared few personal thoughts about his ugly reunion with the Orlando Magic.

"It wasn't emotional," Howard said.

Maybe that was part of the problem—and one reason the Magic left the reunion with their biggest win of the season.

Arron Afflalo scored 30 points, Glen Davis added 23 points and 12 rebounds, and the Magic beat Howard's Lakers in their first game against their longtime center, 113-103 on Sunday night.

Howard had 21 points and 15 rebounds against his former team, but the rebuilding Magic rallied impressively with a 40-point fourth quarter for just their fourth win in 14 games, snapping a three-game skid. Orlando pulled the upset partly by intentionally fouling Howard, who went 9 for 21 at the line—including 7 for 14 in the fourth quarter.

The Magic made their decisive 12-2 run while Howard wasn't helping the Lakers at the line in the final minutes, with Nelson and J.J. Redick hitting 3-pointers along the way.

Howard's first few months with the Lakers haven't gone the way he might have expected after the four-team, 12-player trade in August: a sub-.500 record, a shocking coaching change, an injured point guard and an unsightly amplification of Howard's career-long woes at the free-throw line, where he has dropped to 46.5 percent (87 for 187) for the season.

"As a team, our effort wasn't there," Howard said. "We have to start the game with energy and play the whole game the same way. We didn't do that tonight, and they capitalized on it and they got a win."



Los Angeles Lakers center Dwight Howard, center, goes up for a shot as Orlando Magic forward Glen Davis, left, and guard J.J. Redick defend during the second half of their NBA basketball game, Sunday, Dec. 2, 2012, in Los Angeles. The Magic won, 113-103.

Howard left the court after the game without shaking hands with the Magic—not that he has many close friends left in blue pinstripes anyway. Orlando has new coach Jacque Vaughn, a new front-office staff and just five players who played with Howard.

"Let Dwight be Dwight. If he wants to walk off the court, it's cool," said Davis, who overlapped with Howard only last season in Orlando. "No hard feelings. He lost. I'd feel bad, too. I wouldn't want to shake nobody's hand. We weren't even really thinking about him. We just wanted to get this win. I didn't talk to him. I'm here to play basketball. I'm not here to be buddies."

Kobe Bryant scored 34 points for the Lakers, who dropped to 3-4 under new coach Mike D'Antoni with another incon-

sistent performance featuring deficient defense. Metta World Peace scored 15 points and Pau Gasol added 11 for the Lakers, who went back to poor form just two nights after a 122-point effort in a blowout win over Denver.

"Seems like we can't get out of our own way," D'Antoni said. "I think our problem is just not coming out with the intensity and the purpose that we need to have. ... We're slow right now. Just athletically, we're struggling with young teams that run up and down."

Jameer Nelson had 19 points and 13 assists after nearly sitting out with tendinitis during the Magic's most impressive win under Vaughn. Orlando also started a stretch of five road games in eight days with just its second road win all season.

Knicks 106, Suns 99

In New York, Carmelo Anthony scored 34 points as the New York Knicks won their third straight game and remained unbeaten at home with a 106-99 victory over the Phoenix Suns on Sunday.

Raymond Felton had 23 points, seven assists and no turnovers for the Knicks, who are 7-0 at Madison Square Garden and 12-4 overall, a half-game behind Miami for the best record in the Eastern Conference. They got off to a good start in December after winning 11 in November for the first time since a 12-victory November in 1972 on the way to their last NBA championship.

Tyson Chandler finished with 15 points and 13 rebounds. The Knick also shook off the first ejection of Rasheed Wal-

lace's comeback - after a mere 1:25 of playing time - that left them short-handed. Jason Kidd missed a fourth straight game with lower back spasms.

Marcin Gortat had 18 points and 10 rebounds for the Suns, who dropped their third straight and fell to 1-4 on their season-high, six-game road trip that ends Tuesday in Memphis. Shannon Brown scored 17 points.

Phoenix had won its last two at MSG but the Knicks have finally figured out under coach Mike Woodson that home-court games are not to be wasted. They are 18-1 in the regular season here since he took over last March, jumping on their last few opponents from the start.

The Suns have trailed by double digits in 14 of their 18 games and were already down

10 just 4:18 into the game. The Knicks seemed well on their way to eclipsing their NBA-best average of 27.5 points per first quarter when they jumped ahead 21-6 with 5:15 left in the period.

But they got bogged down committing fouls, including one on Wallace against Luis Scola. Wallace was hit with a technical foul, then after Goran Dragic missed the free throw, yelled "Ball don't lie!" - his way of saying the call was proven wrong - and whistled for another to pick up his 31st career ejection, according to STATS, LLC.

Wallace has been called for more than 300 technical fouls in his career and led the league seven times, but said he was too old to be clashing with officials at age 38 when he ended a two-year retirement. But he's up to four for the season now, one off the league lead.

The Suns pulled within 24-20 after one before the Knicks broke it open again late in the second with an 11-2 spurt that gave them a 59-39 lead with 24 seconds left in the half.

But the game got close a few times in the second half.

Phoenix had the ball with a chance to get within 10 in the final minute of the third but Gortat was whistled for an offensive foul. The Knicks then scored the next five points, taking an 89-72 lead to the fourth after Anthony made a 3-pointer with 2.8 seconds left.

The Suns made a charge to open the fourth, pulling within 93-85 on Jared Dudley's 3-pointer midway through the period. A follow dunk by Chandler before baskets by Felton and Anthony pushed the lead to 97-85 with 5:16 to go, yet still the Knicks couldn't put it away. Phoenix got it down to 103-99 on Brown's layup with 26 seconds left, but JR Smith—who was 1 of 11 from the field—made two free throws and Chandler added one.

Notre Dame vs Alabama: Star power, power football



NEW YORK (AP) — On one side, a blossoming

dynasty from the college football capital of the Deep South. On the other, the sport's most famous team, trying to reclaim its place among the elite.

Notre Dame and Alabama bring star power and power football to the BCS championship.

The matchup became official Sunday night when the final standings were released and, to no one's surprise, the Fighting Irish were first and the Crimson Tide was second.

The one bit of drama on college football's selection Sunday was whether Northern Illinois could be this year's BCS buster. The Huskies got in, get-

ting a spot in the Orange Bowl against Florida State, taking a bid away from Oklahoma and sparking heated debate about a system that never fails to tick off fans in some way.

The other BCS matchups:

- Oregon and Kansas State will play in the Fiesta Bowl.
- Wisconsin and Stanford will meet in the Rose Bowl.
- Florida and Louisville are set for the Sugar Bowl.

As for the main event in the penultimate Bowl Championship Series, there was little controversy about No. 1 Notre Dame against No. 2 Alabama in Miami.

"The tradition of Alabama and Notre Dame brings special attention to it, but we're just trying to the best team on Monday, Jan. 7," Notre Dame coach

Brian Kelly said Sunday night. "All of that tradition, what's happened in the past, is not going to help us Jan. 7, but we do respect the traditions."

The Irish clinched their spot a week ago in Los Angeles by completing a perfect season against rival Southern California.

Alabama earned its spot Saturday, beating Georgia 32-28 in a thrilling Southeastern Conference title game.

The program that coach Paul Bryant turned into an SEC behemoth in the 1960s and 70s, winning five national championships and sharing another during his tenure, is again dominating college football with a modern-day version of the Bear leading the way in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Coach Nick Saban and the

Crimson Tide are on the verge of one of the great runs in history. Alabama would become the first team to repeat as champs since the BCS was implemented in 1998, and it would be the 11th time a team has won consecutive AP titles since the poll started in 1936. Alabama is already one of seven programs to repeat. The Tide has done it twice. Notre Dame is another.

Alabama also won the 2009 BCS championship under Saban. The last team to win three major national titles in four seasons was Nebraska, which went back-to-back in 1994 and '95 and finished No. 1 in the final coaches' poll in 1997.

In a world full of spread-the-field, hurry-up offenses, Alabama is a bastion of traditional football.

The Tide put its no-frills muscle on display Saturday, mashing Georgia with 350 yards rushing.

Eddie Lacy, listed at a conservative 220 pounds, went for 181 against the Bulldogs to up his season total to 1,182 with 17 touchdowns. Freshman T.J. Yeldon has run for 1,000 yards and scored 12 touchdowns.

But this is no 3 yards and a cloud of dust. Both backs average over 6 yards per carry, behind an offensive line anchored by All-American center Barrett Jones, who is nursing a foot injury.

And quarterback AJ McCarron has thrown for 26 touchdowns with only three interceptions.

The Tide has been more potent offensively this season

than last to make up for a defense that has slipped, but only a bit. Alabama leads the nation in total defense (246 yards per game) and is second in points allowed (10.7 per game). Linebackers Adrian Hubbard, Nico Johnson, CJ Mosley and Trey DePriest average 242 pounds.

When Brian Kelly was hired at Notre Dame three years ago, he looked at Alabama and the SEC, which has won six straight BCS titles, and decided the Irish needed to play like that.

Kelly built his reputation and winning teams at previous stops on fast-paced spread offenses. In South Bend, Ind., he has put the fight back in the Irish, who have won eight AP national titles—only Alabama has as many—but none since 1988.

Notre Dame has allowed the fewest touchdowns in the country (10) and is sixth overall in total defense (286 yards per game).

IT&E Voyagers, Soriano shine in SBA awards ceremony

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



IT&E Voyagers of SOS Bar & Grill and Jerry Soriano of Bammy's Restaurant & Bar's Equalizers and Blue Ice Hustlers/Utopia Sports Bar earned the highest honors in the Saipan Billiards Association's 15th 2012 Summer/Fall season awards presentation held last Sunday at Charley's Cabaret at Pacific Islands Club.

The IT&E Voyagers were recognized for capping a perfect run in the Tuesday division's regular season and reigning supreme in this year's postseason Budweiser Cup.

Last year, their sister rivals IT&E Incrdeibles, showed them up the post season, but the Voyagers held it together to bag the sweep this time around. The IT&E Voyagers are made up of team captain Rolly Villanueva with Harris Enriquez, Mario Espinosa Luis Fajardo, RJ Mascaranas, Marc Brian Nelvis, Arjay Nonato, and Roman Rodriguez as members.

Meanwhile, 19th Hole Bar's Titans II reigned supreme in the Thursday division during the regular season, but was upset by Team Saipan Computer Services of Jonny's Bar & Grill, in the Budweiser Cup tournament.

Titans II is composed of



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

The IT&E Voyagers of SOS Bar & Grill pose with their trophies during the Saipan Billiards Association's 15th 2012 Summer/Fall season awards presentation held last Sunday at Charley's Cabaret at Pacific Islands Club.

team captain Chester Cuento, Rodel Dela Cruz, Rick Elefante, Phil Kalen and Mei Rengiil, while Team SCS includes Jun Abedes, Bryan Fabre, Erwin and Lisa Gomez, Caloy Lubi, Joey Paranada, Rick Reyes, and Jerry Tiu.

Other team accolades went to Tuesday and Thursday runners-up, Blue Ice Hustlers of Utopia Sports Bar and Bammy's Restaurant & Bar's Equalizers and third finishers IT&E Incrdeibles of Oceanside Bar & Grill and the Waterfront Karaoke's Eight

It!. Team sportsmanship honors went to Tuesday's Yuichiros Printing of Poseidon Bar & Grill and Thursday's Team SCS.

Soriano accrued the most individual awards. He took the "8-Ball on the Break" award for both divisions and was named Tuesday's Top Performer for his 27 assists this season.

Besides Soriano, the other 8-Ball on Break winners were Team SCS's Reyes and Ken Phillips of the 19th Hole Eagles.

Notably, IT&E Incrdeibles' Chester Hamoy was the only



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

other multiple award winner. He received the Tuesday's "Run the Rack" trophy in addition to being selected as the MVP of the field. Hamoy ran the rack seven times and notched 23 wins this season.

Team SCS's Gomez (7) won the Thursday's Run the Rack prize, while Titans II's Dela Cruz was hailed as the division MVP.

The other Tuesday 8-Ball on Break winners were IT&E Incrdeibles' Cabera, Cuento, Nonato, Mark Butac, Yuichiros' Mario Diola, 19th Hole Titans I's Ron Chisato, and Docomo Pacific Home Boyz' Robert Sanciango.

Special plaques of appreciation were presented to Docomo Pacific and Marpac-Budweiser.

Meanwhile, registration for SBA's Winter/Spring season is scheduled shortly after the turn of the calendar year. A team captain's meeting will be held at The Waterfront on Jan. 15.

Visit www.pacificamusement.com/SBA or call 233-4397 for more information.

Jerry Soriano of Bammy's Restaurant & Bar's Equalizers and Blue Ice Hustlers/Utopia Sports Bar poses with his award during the Saipan Billiards Association's 15th 2012 Summer/Fall season banquet held last Sunday at Charley's Cabaret at Pacific Islands Club.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

MP UNITED

From Page 28

attention to that side. So when it was Chris' turn to play, we wanted to bring the ball to the left side," MP United coach Norman Del Rosario said.

Park's goal came a few minutes before MP United nearly got its third goal off Jehn Joyner's shot from the right side. However, the attempt was called an offside and the match remained tied, 2-all.

Jin Han Yoon canned the equalizer in the 51st minute off a penalty kick and MP United

went on to steal the win despite trailing at halftime, 1-2, as Del Rosario's wards dominated possession in the second half.

Paire U18 led in the first half after getting one goal apiece from Colin Fruit and Raphael Zapanta. Fruit connected on a penalty kick in the 9th minute for Paire's 1-0 advantage before Hall fed Joyner for the game-tying goal four minutes later. Then in the 23rd minute, Zapanta earned a direct kick and his loop shot went in, as MP United goalie Greg Sablan was a step slower in sliding to his upper left to catch the ball.

Paire made several attempts to add to its lead in the first half, as it continued to be aggressive, forcing MP United to make defensive adjustments in the second half.

"We used the 4-2-3-1 formation to really prevent Paire from getting more possessions," Del Rosario said.

With MP United's defense set up well, Paire had only three chances for clear attempts with Zhi Ping Lin the closest to hit a goal, going for a breakaway against two defenders, but missing his shot eventually. After Lin's miss, Paire coach Steve

McKagan was overheard shouting "where's the help?" while looking at his several players left on the other side of the field.

That has been the story for Paire in the second half, as it played passive, focusing more on defense to protect its halftime lead, instead of keeping its intensity on offense. Timothy Tawanpiy and Jireh Yobech tried to save Paire in the closing minutes when they traded possession from the right sideline, but failed to make an attempt, as MP United defender Kennedy Izuka went back and forth to steal the ball and managed

to kick the leather out.

It was a sorry loss for Paire U18, which swept MP United-2 in the double-robin robin season of the 2012 NMIFA Fall Youth League.

Meanwhile, Tan Holdings FC U18 blanked MP United U15 in the consolation game, 7-0, to win the \$300 worth of gift certificates (from Joeten, Topnotch and Shirley's Coffee Shop). MP United U18 pocketed \$500 in-kind prizes, while Paire and MP United U15 went home with \$400 and \$200 worth of gift certificates, respectively.

DIZON

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aged to make it to the Top 3 of the road bike division's 36 to 45 age group category. Dizon finished behind Russia's Oleg Golubev (3:10:45.78) and Guam's Cameron O'Neal (3:10:46.00). Tenorio came in at fourth, while three other Saipan riders rounded out the finishers in the age group with Tyce Mister

submitting 3:37:39.25 and Ric Antonio and Ben Babauta posting 4:34:10.12 and 4:36:04.06, respectively.

Castro was the only entry in his age group (U15) and was also the youngest finisher (14-years-old) among the 170 riders who joined the weekend race. Other top finishers in their respective age group were 26 to 35's Gabriel Lombard (3:10:48.53) of Guam and

former Saipan resident Kieran Daly (3:33:58.31), who ruled the 46-and-above age group.

Daly defeated two Japanese riders, beating Yazaki Kiyoshi (3:33:59.06) by less than a second, and finishing about four minutes ahead of Michio Egawa (3:37:33.62). Eight Saipan bikers joined Daly's age group and seven managed to complete the race. The list included Willy Barbo (3:39:16.84), Rene Cal-

age (3:41:33.37), Cesar Fortaleza (3:41:35.81), Philip Gauang (4:05:56.09), Steve Nutting (4:29:20.22), Paul Plunkett (4:45:35.50), and Russ Quinn (3:56:26.38).

In the women's division, Kimiko McKagan timed in at 4:09:14.34 for a runaway win over Guam's Karly O'Neal (4:46:02.03) in the 36 to 45 age group, while Regina Sebial (4:05:59.59) made it to the Top

3 of the 16 to 35 division, joining top finisher Kim Myo Jin of Korea (3:25:55.15) and Guam's Ayashallyn Perez (3:48:26.53).

Two more Saipan bikers in the women's division finished the race with Robyn Wondrasek recording 4:37:46.12 and Susan Marchitti tallying 6:22:04.97.

Meanwhile, the men's mountain bike and team races results will be reported before the week ends.

BIKERS

From Page 28

ing the race, however none has yet to confirm the "takeover."

Last weekend's event was PIC's sixth time to host the 100k race around the island and it also drew a lot of off-island participants (over 50) with more than 10 Russians and a bunch of Korean and Japanese riders coming to Saipan to compete against local riders. Guam also sent sev-

eral male and female bikers and even Tinian fielded riders in the team event.

The race also lured Olympian and eventual second finisher Sun Jae Jang, who suited up for the Korean National Team in the 2012 London Olympics. Joining him was younger brother Chan Jae, who placed fourth overall. Returnees Konstantin Fast and Natalia Zakharova and third finisher and first timer Aleksandr Dorovskikh led the group

of Russian riders, while Gabriel Lombard paced the more than 10 Guam bikers.

Australia had only three in Willet, fellow back-to-back champion John Anderson and former Saipan resident and PIC manager Kieran Daly, but the former said she could bring more riders next year if the race continues.

"I am with the road bike team from Australia now and I have teammates who are interested in joining the Hell of Marianas. I

just wish that they will have a chance to try this great course next year," Willet said.

Anderson also bowed to clear his schedule next year to return to Saipan and go for his third men's title in a row.

"This is one of the toughest courses I had been to, so I really love to return and break the record again," said Anderson.

Mieko Carey, who came from Guam, said she tried so hard to finish last weekend's race after

being disqualified in 2011 as she does not know if there will be another "Hell" next year.

"I had my best time in PIC's last Hell of Marianas. I am happy and sad at the same time after completing the race. But, I am praying that we could do this race against next year and in the coming years. We love to see a lot of bikers going around the island during the Hell of Marianas. Every year, we look forward to this race," said the 2010 champion.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	12	4	.750	—
Brooklyn	11	5	.688	1
Philadelphia	10	7	.588	2½
Boston	9	8	.529	3½
Toronto	4	13	.235	8½

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	12	3	.800	—
Atlanta	9	5	.643	2½
Charlotte	7	8	.467	5
Orlando	6	10	.375	6½
Washington	1	13	.071	10½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	8	7	.533	—
Chicago	8	7	.533	—
Indiana	8	9	.471	1
Detroit	5	13	.278	4½
Cleveland	4	13	.235	5

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	12	3	.800	½
San Antonio	14	4	.778	—
Houston	8	8	.500	5
Dallas	8	9	.471	5½
New Orleans	4	11	.267	8½

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	14	4	.778	—
Utah	9	9	.500	5
Denver	8	9	.471	5½
Minnesota	7	8	.467	5½
Portland	7	10	.412	6½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	10	6	.625	—
L.A. Clippers	10	6	.625	—
L.A. Lakers	8	9	.471	2½
Phoenix	7	11	.389	4
Sacramento	4	12	.250	6

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-New England	9	3	0	.750	430	260
N.Y. Jets	5	7	0	.417	228	296
Buffalo	5	7	0	.417	277	337
Miami	5	7	0	.417	227	249

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Houston	11	1	0	.917	351	221
Indianapolis	8	4	0	.667	265	306
Tennessee	4	8	0	.333	248	359
Jacksonville	2	10	0	.167	206	342

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	9	3	0	.750	303	242
Pittsburgh	7	5	0	.583	254	230
Cincinnati	7	5	0	.583	302	260
Cleveland	4	8	0	.333	229	265

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Denver	9	3	0	.750	349	244
San Diego	4	8	0	.333	258	257
Oakland	3	9	0	.250	235	376
Kansas City	2	10	0	.167	188	322

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	7	4	0	.636	305	226
Washington	5	6	0	.455	295	285
Dallas	5	6	0	.455	242	262
Philadelphia	3	8	0	.273	184	282

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Atlanta	11	1	0	.917	317	229
Tampa Bay	6	6	0	.500	333	285
New Orleans	5	7	0	.417	321	327
Carolina	3	9	0	.250	235	292

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Green Bay	8	4	0	.667	296	259
Chicago	8	4	0	.667	294	198
Minnesota	6	6	0	.500	262	272
Detroit	4	8	0	.333	300	315

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Francisco	8	3	1	.708	289	171
Seattle	7	5	0	.583	242	202
St. Louis	5	6	1	.458	221	267
Arizona	4	8	0	.333	186	234

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JINGLE

From Page 28

recording 18:50. Saipan International School Rintaro Miyawaki (21:03) and Whispering Palms' Logan Mister (21:32) completed the Top 3.

Gregorio T. Camacho's Conatsu Kaga reigned in the female student category after timing in at 28:09 and beating Soleil Lamar (31:19) and Karen Sato (32:45).

For more information about next week's race, call 234-7859 or send email to saipanswim-club@gmail.com. (SSC)

Rotary Youth Basketball League U16 Playoffs

PHOTOS BY WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND



Rollers 1's C.J. Morales splits the Matson Consulting/Proa's defense with a nice move through the lane during their title game in the Rotary U16 caging at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



Matson Consulting/Proa's Eldiberto Javier III bulldozes his way to the hoop for a nice putback.



Rollers 1's Emerson Deria uses his length to take advantage of a mismatch downlow.



Matson Consulting/Proa poses for a team photo after getting the runner-up honors during the awards ceremony.



Rollers 1 coach Joe Diaz, third left, accepts the Best Coach award from Rotary Club of Saipan Club president Peter Schilling, Rotarian Kelly Butcher, left, and BANMI's Elias Rangamar, far right.



Matson/Proa's Karlo De Leon streaks past Rollers 1's J.P. Iglesias during the U16 championship duel.



The Rollers 1's Prince Factor tries to take a bail shot as he collides with Matson Consulting/Proa's Eldiberto Javier III during the first half of the championship game.



Hi-5 players pose for a photo with their second runner-up and team sportsmanship awards.



Rollers 2 players for a photo with their third runner-up trophy.



Orlando beats
Howard's Lakers
in reunion

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Romo sets TD
mark as Cowboys
beat Eagles

PAGE 24

28 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2012

SAIPAN TRIBUNE



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MP United FC players and coach Norman del Rosario, left, pose for a group photo after beating Paire FC in the 2012 FA Challenge Cup last Thursday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

MP United keeps FA Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MP United Football Club retained the FA Cup after pulling off an upset over Paire Football Club, 3-2, in the winner-take-all fall season finale last Thursday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Chris Park made the go-ahead goal for MP United-2 U18 to keep the coveted trophy that the club's lone U18 squad won over its sister U15 team last fall season.

Park, who came off the bench for Dakota Hall, went for the attack just inside the penalty area, and was left momentarily free



after his first defender fell on the ground. He then made a few dribbles and before Paire's help defense could set up, he went for a cross to break the deadlock at the 69th minute mark.

"It was a well-executed play. We wanted to exploit Paire's weakest side of defense (left).

We were attacking mostly from the right and they read our offense well, so we switched sides at the half. I fielded midfielder Jeong Hwan Kim in the game at the start of the second half and he hung around the left wing with Paire's defense not paying

See MP UNITED on Page 26

Dizon sprints to finish, leads Saipan riders



Nap Dizon beats Erico Castro and Lewie Tenorio in a sprint to the finish line of last Saturday's 6th Hell of Marianas Century Race.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Nap Dizon defeated Erico Castro and Lewie Tenorio in a sprint to the finish line, becoming the first Saipan rider to complete last Saturday's 6th Hell of the Marianas Century Cycle Race.



Dizon clocked in at 3:17:04.50 in the 100-kilometer race, as he went for the kill at the halfway mark of the finish line loop to

edge Castro, who submitted 3:17:05.75. Tenorio, who joined the two in entering the about 200-meter loop, settled for third with his 3:17:06.37.

With the 36-year-old Dizon leading Saipan finishers in the around the island race, he man-
See DIZON on Page 26

Bikers bat for 'Hell' return

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Back-to-back women's champion Jodie Willet promised to return to Saipan if the Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race still hits the road next year.

"I would love to come back and defend my title next year so hopefully Saipan will still

hold the Hell of Marianas," Willet said.

The Australian biker and the 169 other participants of last Saturday's 100-kilometer race were informed that Pacific Islands Club's hosting of the signature event ended last Saturday. PIC added there are groups interested in continu-

See BIKERSON Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Bikers head to Kobleville during last Saturday's 6th Hell of Marianas Century Race.

Jingle Bell Fun Run set for Dec. 12

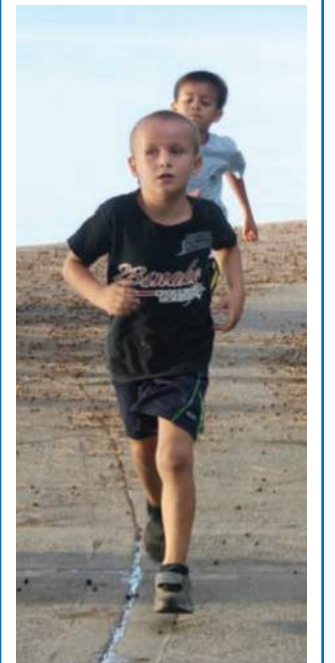


The
Saipan
Swim
Club will

be holding the 2012 Jingle Bell Fun Run on Dec. 12.

The race starts and ends at Minatchom Atdao pavilion (across the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium) with registration beginning at 4pm. Runners will then head out to the course at 5pm and go as far as the Quartermaster road before returning to Minatchom Atdao to complete the around 4.5-kilometer race.

Entrance fee is only \$15



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Student runners cruise along Beach Road during last year's SSC Jingle Bell Fun Run.

and the first 100 participants will get t-shirts. Raffle draws will also take place after the race.

Last year, more than 80 runners joined the Jingle Bell Fun Run with Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel leading the finishers after timing in at 17:25. He made it to the finish line just 11 seconds ahead of Ronald Villafria, who submitted 17:36. Tom Linden rounded out the Top 3 after posting 18:02.

In the women's division, Pipit had the fastest time at 22:42, edging Sakiko Eda in a down-to-the-wire finish as the latter clocked in at 22:43. Heather Kennedy and Suzy Kindel placed third and fourth with times of 23:37 and 24:48, respectively.

Michael Mancao of Marianas High School ruled the male student division after

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